

# **Managing the Impacts of Wildfires**

in

## **Franklin County, Idaho**



Prepared for

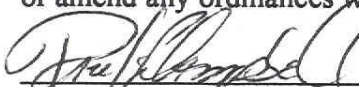
## **Franklin County Fire District**

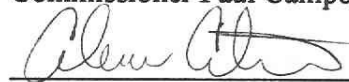
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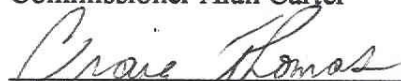
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**Consultant**

## Mitigating the Impact of Wildland Fires in Franklin County

This "Wildland Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan" has been developed and reviewed by the Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Planning Group. Adoption of this plan by the Franklin County Commissioners does not obligate the county to expend any funds or amend any ordinances without the required public involvement process.

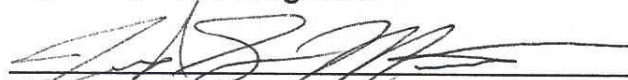
  
Commissioner Paul Campbell, Chair

  
Commissioner Alan Carter

  
Commissioner Craig Thomas

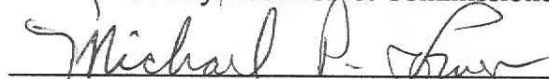
### Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Planning Group – Reviewers

  
Bureau of Land Management

  
U.S. Forest Service

  
Franklin County Disaster Services

  
Franklin County Fire District Commissioners

  
Fire Chief

  
Fire Marshall

## Acknowledgement

The Franklin County Wildfire Mitigation Planning Group who authored this report consisted of:

- Alan Carter, County Commissioner
- Kim Crockett, Commissioner - Chairman, Franklin County Fire District
- Warren Wilde, Franklin County Emergency Services
- Michael Lower, Fire Chief, Franklin County Fire District
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- Darrell Wilburn, Consultant

Other members of the Planning Group were:

- Kevin Conran, BLM
- Lance R. Brady, BLM
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Finally, we what to acknowledge the efforts of the BLM's Prevention and Education section without who's help none of these reports would not have been possible.

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## Executive Summary

The objectives of the Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan was to provide Franklin County residents, the public and private organizations with assistance and recommendations to mitigate wildfire risk and hazard vulnerability presented by wildfires within Franklin County. These objectives were reached by public and official participants identifying and documenting areas of high and medium risk to wildfire hazards. Actions identified to decrease wildfire risk and hazards within Franklin County are focused on public safety, emergency services, County infrastructure, natural resources, and property protection.

The Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan will be linked to the Idaho State Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan. The FEMA Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Worksheet was used for plan formulation, and target dates. Development and review of the plan was accomplished by the Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Planning Group with participation from Federal, State, and County agencies and private citizens.

Organizational structure of the Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Planning Group was managed under a modified Incident Command System (ICS). The use of ICS provided optimal information exchange, hazard identification and mitigation recommendation development. Public participation was accomplished through: public workshops; the distribution of questionnaires regarding wildfire concerns and suggestions; participation by homeowners; and utilization of contractor-collected public input.

The priorities of the plan were developed by the Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Planning Group and are standard priorities for most risk assessments, hazard reduction activities and wildfire incidents. Those priorities were:

1. **Protection of Life:** Identify and provide mitigation recommendations for areas of high wildfire risks that are in or adjacent to homes and communities, and improve critical county infrastructure facilities.
2. **Protection of Property:** Identify and provide mitigation recommendations for properties of moderate and high wildfire risk. Increase public awareness through education, training and information sharing, addressing wildfire risks and mitigation measures.
3. **Protection of Resources & Values:** Identify resources and values that are at risk to wildfires and implement natural resource planning to protect these resources. Include protection and mitigation of at-risk watersheds, vegetation, fish, and wildlife; maintain soil stability; protect scenic, historical, and cultural resources.

Within these priorities is the need to:

- **Improve Wildfire Emergency Services:** Improve county infrastructure and wildfire emergency service planning, training, communications, and equipment.
- **Increase Public Awareness of Wildfire Prevention:** Increase public awareness of Firewise practices and wildfire prevention through education, training and information sharing.
- **Improve Partnerships for Implementation:** Utilize partnerships currently established and develop additional participation with State, Federal, and private organizations.

The following summary table (Table 1) presents the hazards, in priority order based on the impact on the plan objectives, and the mitigation goal to alleviate the hazard. Each mitigation goal also presents the target dates for completion of the goal and an estimated cost for all the implementation ideas for achieving the goal.

The implementation ideas listed provide sources and resources for the implementation of the goal. These may include various potential grant or funding sources and organizations that could provide expertise or assistance for goal implementation.

As the administrators of the Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners is the authority and has the responsibility to adopt the plan.

The plan maintenance section includes recommendations for annual plan review and monitoring. A bi-annual re-evaluation of priorities for action items and progress is also recommended. A total plan revision should be conducted every five years. This plan maintenance will be directed by the Franklin County Commissioners, and coordinated with the Franklin County Disaster Services Specialist and the Franklin County Fire District. In addition, participation will be needed by various positions represented in the Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Group, coupled with public input.

An economic analysis template/direction examining potential loss as a result of wildfires in Franklin County is provided in the appendix. Though total potential loss to catastrophic wildfires is variable by year, the cost effectiveness of fuel treatments, County infrastructure improvements, and emergency wildfire services improvements will provide benefits to the primary objectives: protection of life and property.

**Table 1 - Hazard/Mitigation Summary**

Hazard			Mitigation Strategies for Goal Implementation			
Rating			Description	Goals and Action Items	Target Date	\$ Costs Thousand
Life	Prop	Res				
High	High	High	1. Franklin County's subdivisions & homeowners in High Risk Areas are without emergency wildfire plans or other emergency plans in place.	<u>Goal 1:</u> Develop County Fire-Emergency Mobilization Plan and County/Interagency Communications Plan with landowners and cooperators in Franklin County and develop subdivision and/or homeowners' wildfire and other emergency operations plan(s) as requested. 1. Develop escape routes for the Maple Creek, Cub River (including Willow Flats & Scout Camp), Cotton Wood Creek, Oneida Narrows, Oxford, and Dayton areas. (See Goal 8, for GPS Equipment) that: 1) meet NFPA standards and 2) show the coordinate system.	Winter 2004/2005	\$2 For public education activities and signs.
High	High	High	2. Franklin County's Subdivision and Building Code Ordinances need to be revised to address fire protection and prevention.	<u>Goal 2:</u> Develop changes to the Franklin County Subdivision Ordinance and Building Code ordinance to address fire protection and prevention for new developments and construction. Utilizing standard Fire Protection Guidelines for Residential Development as identified in NFPA 1144, Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire, 2002 edition. 1. Develop Franklin County Ordinances to modify the existing Subdivision Ordinance and Building permit Ordinance to provide for Fire Protection as identified in NFPA 1144, 2002 edition. 2. Work with the County Planning & Zoning Commission for approval of the ordinance changes. 3. Work with the County Commissioners for approval of the ordinance changes.	Winter 2004/2005	\$7 Consultant & Public Hearings
High	High	Med	3. Franklin County has limited sources of water for fighting wildland fires and many of those sources are vulnerable to disruption of service in the event of a wildland fire.	<u>Goal 3:</u> Provide additional sources of water at strategic locations throughout Franklin County and means of supplementing or replacing service in the event of disruption. 1. Locate (using GPS) and document (type of source and reliability) potential water sources available at farms and homes in the County, including potential water drafting sites. Update annually and provide to organizations and agencies conducting fire suppression operations in the County. 2. Purchase and strategically locate four (4) mobile emergency power generators to power local water sources in the event of power loss. 3. Locate and place "Dry Hydrants" along strategic creeks in the Cub	2005 & Annually	\$10.8

Hazard			Mitigation Strategies for Goal Implementation			
Rating			Description	Goals and Action Items	Target Date	\$ Costs Thousand
Life	Prop	Res				
				River and Maple Creek and Mink Creek areas where domestic water sources are not available. 4. Contact Power transmission companies to provide fire protection around their wood power poles.		
Med	High	Med	<b>4. Franklin County has limited fire station locations and equipment that result in poor response times to fires in outlying portions of the County.</b>	<b><u>Goal 4:</u> Provide Franklin County Fire District with facility improvements and equipment as identified and improve coverage in areas where facilities and equipment are currently lacking.</b> 1. Locate scattered satellite buildings, with equipment caches, to provide quicker response near the City of Franklin. 2. Locate scattered satellite buildings, with equipment caches, to provide quicker response near the City of Dayton. 3. Locate scattered satellite buildings, with equipment caches, to provide quicker response in Northern Franklin County. 4. Investigate a joint venture with Caribou County for a fire station in the Thatcher Area	Spring 2007	\$350 & \$140 each
Med	High	Med	<b>5. Franklin County has numerous county roads, infrastructure, communication sites, developments and communities that require hazardous fuels reduction (HFR).</b>	<b><u>Goal 5:</u> Reduce identified hazardous fuels buildup in high-risk areas on a countywide scale.</b> 1. A specific hazardous fuels assessment, with specific recommendations for mitigation measures, must be conducted in the Franklin County areas described below. Each area identified will have to be assessed by someone, or a group of individuals, who are familiar with the area, who can prioritize the risks, and suggest the correct mitigation required. The type of fuels manipulation that can be incorporated into the areas described might include prescribed fire, thinning and liming, slash piling and burning, chipping, mowing, disking, spraying on the type of fuel. 2. Seek Federal and State grants to fund the fuels assessment. 3. Seek grants, or work cooperatively with the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and utility companies to conduct the necessary fuels reduction activities.	Annually	\$80
High	High	Low	<b>6. Franklin County lacks defensible space, fire resistant building materials, and adequate bridges in some developments and at private homes.</b>	<b><u>Goal 6:</u> Create defensible space standards for existing homeowners and developments and utilize standard Fire Protection Guidelines for Residential Development as identified in NFPA 1144, Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire, 2002 edition. Implementation of these standards will be by voluntary compliance and required construction standards for re-roofing structures. (See Goal 2.)</b>	Annually	\$20

Hazard			Mitigation Strategies for Goal Implementation			
Rating			Description	Goals and Action Items	Target Date	\$ Costs Thousand
Life	Prop	Res				
				1. Implement building codes to address fire hazards (e.g., specifying building materials for roofs, siding, access requirements for fire fighting equipment, water supply needs, etc.) 2. Develop and adopt revisions to the building code ordinance that requires all new roofs to be of fire retardant material as required by NFPA.		
Med	Med	Med	<b>7. Franklin County's volunteer fire department is having difficulty meeting standards or requirements pertaining to: training, PPE, communications, equipment, apparatus and facilities.</b>	<b><u>Goal 7:</u> Provide Franklin County Fire District personnel with required training, communications, PPE, apparatus, facility improvements and equipment as identified.</b> 1. Acquire current NFPA Testing Manuals & Workbooks. 2. Acquire a second Pumper/Tender truck for Fire Station 1. 3. Improve County grant writing success by training an individual to serve as a County Grant Writer and develop a Grant Resource Library Specific to EMS/Fire. 4. Provide wildland fire training opportunities (including use of computer-based training) to FCFD and interested citizens. Coordinate with USFS/BLM for wildfire training and utilize the BLM Rural Fire Assistance program.	Spring 2006	\$3.7 Hardware & Software  \$250 Equip
Med	Med	Med	<b>8. Franklin County citizens have had limited Firewise education, information and awareness with regards to wildland fire.</b>	<b><u>Goal 8:</u> Gain community or development participation in Firewise activities including education and information distribution.</b> 1. Staff the FCFD with a part time person who would also coordinate and conduct education information training.	Annually	\$50
Med	Med	Med	<b>9. Franklin County and Forest Service Roads lack turnouts for emergency vehicles to pass slower vehicles and weight limits are not posted on all bridges.</b>	<b><u>Goal 9:</u> Work with the road agencies to construct vehicle turnouts where needed and install weight limit signs on bridges.</b> 1. Identify locations where vehicle turnouts and weight limit signs are needed.	2005	Unknown
Low	Med	Low	<b>10. Franklin County has no comprehensive inventory of homes and values at risk in the event of a wildland fire.</b>	<b><u>Goal 10:</u> Develop a comprehensive inventory of homes and provide the inventory to dispatchers and FCFD in times of emergency response.</b> 1. Locate (using GPS) and document (type of source and reliability) all structures in County. Update annually and provide to organizations and	Annually	\$5 Hardware & Software  Unknown -

Hazard			Mitigation Strategies for Goal Implementation			
Rating			Description	Goals and Action Items	Target Date	\$ Costs Thousand
Life	Prop	Res				
				agencies conducting fire suppression operations in the County.		volunteers
Low	Med	Low	11. Franklin County has a large amount of land in the CRP increasing fuel loads beyond what would normally occur on tilled farmland.	<b><u>Goal 11:</u> Apply fuels treatment - hand, mechanical, prescribed fire or combination of treatments to reduce fuels loads on CRP land.</b> 1. Develop a hazardous fuels reduction plan for perimeters of CRP fields or around buildings to create firebreaks that will reduce the potential threat from a wildfire.	2006	Unknown



# 1. Introduction

In August 2000, the Clinton Administration directed the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to prepare a report that would recommend how best to respond to the year's severe wildland fires, reduce the impacts of such wildland fires on rural communities, and ensure sufficient firefighting resources in the future. The report, titled "Managing the Impacts of Wildfire on Communities and the Environment: A Report to the President in Response to the Wildfires of 2000," is called The National Fire Plan for short. In August 2001, a comprehensive strategy was released that involved the Governors of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior with the "Implementation Plan" which was signed May 23, 2003. This plan is part of Idaho's Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan.

Wildland fires are a part of the natural ecological cycle of forest ecosystems. However, as humans encroach on these forests the changes can result in catastrophic disaster, as was seen in 2003 when 3,000 homes were destroyed by wildland fires. These interface areas between urban development and wildland are known as Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas. The National Fire Plan calls for reducing this risk through a variety of measures including the creation of local wildland urban interface fire mitigation plans. The Franklin County Fire District (FCFD) received a grant to prepare a Wildland Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan (WUIFMP) to identify actions and priorities for reducing wildland fire risk.

This plan is the culmination of over four months of intensive work conducted by the FCFD Wildland Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Planning Committee and their consultant. The plan includes a variety of measures designed to reduce the impact of wildland fires.

This plan is divided into sections, beginning with an executive summary of the fire hazards, mitigation strategies for goal implementation, and actions items for quick reference, followed by this brief introduction. A profile of Franklin County is used for a broader understanding of the problems, hazards and risks that were identified during the planning process. Citizen involvement was utilized during the problem, hazard and risk identification, and goal setting portions.

Goals and actions needed to implement this plan are listed with suggestions for who should complete the action, when it should be completed and the possible resources for completing the action. The plan also states how and when it is to be updated. These sections are followed by technical information and references. Finally, there are a series of appendices describing various data collected during the process.

No plan is complete until it is implemented. This document describes what actions need to take place over the next several years to help reduce the damages caused by wildfire in the wildland urban interface. Proposed mitigation plan maintenance will be biennial, with a total review every four years. Biennial review of the mitigation recommendations will be necessary as various projects or tasks are accomplished and areas at-risk decline. However, it is up to the community to ensure that these actions are taken.

## 2. Franklin County Profile

Franklin County separated from Oneida County on January 20, 1913 placing the county seat at Preston. It was named for the first city in Idaho, Franklin City, which in turn was named for Franklin Richards, an apostle of the Mormon Church. The settlement of the county began in Franklin City.

Agriculture has been the base of economic activity in Franklin County for many years. It also has determined the settlement patterns within the County. In the future, agriculture may have less relevance as the growth and development in the Cache Valley influences Franklin County.

### 2.1 Geography

Geography	Franklin County	Idaho
Land area, 2000 (square miles)	667	82,747
Persons per square mile, 2000	17.0	15.6
Metropolitan Area	Cache Valley, Utah	

### 2.2 Current Population and Population Trends

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Franklin County and Preston had populations of 11,329 and 4,682 in the year 2000. Preston contributes approximately 40 percent of the County's total population. The County grew by 22.7 percent since 1990, somewhat slower than the 28.5 percent statewide rate. Based upon 2000 data, Franklin County had a population density of 17 persons per square mile, 22 percent greater than in 1990 (11,329 population divided by 667 square mile area), which ranks Franklin County as the 18<sup>th</sup> most densely populated county in the State.

#### 2.2.1 Historic Population

Franklin County's population has not grown smoothly. Between 1940 and 1970, the County actually lost population (almost 3,000 people). Since that time, the population has grown roughly one and one-half percent per year. Preston City's rate has been somewhat slower at just one percent per year. During the 1990s both jurisdictions grew at an average compounded rate of just over two percent. The statewide rate was 2.3 percent for the same period. The following table details the County's population change since 1920. The history of Franklin County's population shows a decrease just before World War II.

Year	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2003
Franklin Co.	8,650	9,379	10,229	9,867	8,457	7,373	8,895	9,232	11,329	11,874
Preston City	-	-	-	-	3,640	3,310	3,759	3,710	4,682	4,791

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau

## **2.2.2 Population Forecasts**

### **Idaho Power Population Forecasts for Franklin County**

Idaho Power develops population forecasts for purposes of forecasting electricity demand. These are listed below. Their forecast roughly matches the 1970 to 2000 growth period.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>
2000	11,329
2010	12,685
2020	13,893

### **Preston City Water System Population Forecasts**

Preston City prepared population forecasts, using the exponential method, as a consideration in designing its new municipal water distribution system. The City identified possible future growth rates of 1.16, 1.9, and 2.3 percent. Forecasts, using these growth rates, through 2040 are shown:

<b>Year</b>	<b>1.16% Growth</b>	<b>1.9% Growth</b>	<b>2.3% Growth</b>
2010	5,252	5,649	5,875
2020	5,894	6,819	7,375
2030	6,615	8,231	9,258
2040	7,432	9,936	11,622

The City concluded, for purposes of forecasting demand for its pipe distribution system, that the 2.3 percent growth rate would be appropriate.

Regardless of the source for population forecasts, the undisputed fact is that Franklin County is growing. County residents believe that the changes in the transportation system will cause an increased fluctuation in this growth. Increased population will result in a larger urban interface area.

## **2.3 Tribes/Reservations**

There are no Indian reservations within Franklin County. However, there is a historical battleground site near Franklin City. This site is being purchased by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe for a historical display.

## **2.4 Climate**

The weather in Franklin County can be described as a mild northern climate. Summer temperatures average in the high sixties, with days that can exceed 100 degrees. But these hot spells are usually short in duration or the afternoons are punctuated by clouds

and a brief rain shower. Winter temperatures average in the low twenties. The following table illustrates these temperature changes:

<b>Average Weather in Franklin County</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average temp. (°F)	21.3	26.4	36.6	45.0	53.5	61.9	69.4	68.2	58.6	46.9	33.6	23.3
High temperature (°F)	30.3	36.6	47.7	57.9	67.5	78.0	87.1	86.1	76.1	62.5	44.6	32.8
Low temperature (°F)	12.2	16.2	25.5	32.1	39.5	45.8	51.6	50.3	41.1	31.3	22.6	13.8
Precipitation (in.)	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	2.1	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.2	1.3

The wildfire season in Franklin County is June through September. The highest fire danger usually occurs in July and August. It is common to have numerous consecutive days of "Very High" to "Extreme" fire danger from July through September. Thunderstorms ignite most of the wildfires during the high fire danger periods, and can often start over 20 wildfires from one storm.

### **2.4.1 Drought**

Recent concerns about the effects of climate change, particularly drought, are contributing to concerns about wildfire vulnerability. The term drought is applied to a period in which an unusual scarcity of rain causes a serious hydrological imbalance. Unusually dry winters, or significantly less rainfall than normal, can lead to relatively drier conditions, and leave reservoirs and water tables lower. Drought leads to problems with irrigation, and may contribute to additional fires, or additional difficulties in fighting fires. However, most fuel types (not including grasses) require two or three years of drought before the fuel becomes dangerously dry.

There has been a drought in the county since 1999. To date, 2004 has been the worst part of the drought with low mountain snow packs. The change in the weather patterns that are creating this drought has also produced late spring and early summer showers that have increased the fire fuel supply. It has not been determined if the current weather patterns are cyclical or part of a larger global warming process. In either case, the weather patterns are contributing to an increased risk of wildland fires and urban interface dangers.

## **2.5 Topography**

The county consists of a plain with mountains on the east and west boundaries. The Bear River, Cub River and other drainages forms typical contours of a river flowing from a northerly to a southerly direction. The average elevation on the plain is about 4,700 feet. The WUI are typically at the base of these mountains and in these river contours within the mountains.

## **2.6 Soil & Geology**

The surface geology of Franklin County and the City of Preston area is covered by several hundred feet of glacial and inter-glacial sediments of the ice age. Exposed geologic units consist mainly of Vashon Drift from the last of the series of at least four ice age glaciations. Older sediments are also exposed in the area. These include stratified inter-glacial and glacial deposits of sand, silt, and clay.

The soils in the Preston area have been influenced by a variety of climates that range from cold/wet pre-glacial climate to the cool/dry post glacial climate of today. It is the reaction of this type of climate on mountains composed of sedimentary rock and lake deposits which dominate soil properties into the planning area.

Most of these soils below the Lake Bonneville shoreline are of two types. The first type is characterized by a dark top soil, weak subsoil development, and lie throughout the profile or immediately below the subsoil. These dominant soils are of the types Kearns, Kidman, and Lando. The second type is characterized by dark top soil and a strong subsoil development with layers of clay accumulation in the subsoil. Dominant soils of this type include the Battle Creek, Parleys, and Trenton soils.

The following table shows soil information for the farming area of Franklin County. Those soils are numbered 68, 109, 111, and 148 which consist of silty clay loams and silty loam soil. Soils 2, 65, 69, 109, 110, 111, 146 and 148 are considered prime farm land. These soils are slow to drain with a low permeability with a relatively high water table ranging from 2 to 3 feet below the surface in some areas and 6 to 8 feet in others. These soils are moderately to highly erodable.

Unit Description	Taxonomic Unit Description	Soil Name	Slope %
2	AFA	Ant Flat Silty Loam	0-2
67	TrA	Keamsar - Battle Creek Complex	0-4
68*	KdA	Kidman Fine Sandy Loam	0-2
69	KdB	Kidman Fine Sandy Loam	2-4
70	KdD	Kidman Fine Sandy Loam	20-40
106	OX	Oxford Banida Complex	12-20
107*	PaA	Parleys Silt Loam	0-4
110	PaC	Parleys Silt Loam	4-8
111*	PsA	Parleys Silt Loam Wet	0-2
123	PrA	Preston Fine Sand	0-2
124	PrB	Preston Fine Sand	2-6
125	PrC	Preston Loamy Sand	6-30

Unit Description	Taxonomic Unit Description	Soil Name	Slope %
146	WbA	Welby Silt Loam	0-2
148	WbW	Welby Silt Loam Wet	0-2

\* Most Dominant

The 1996 Soil Survey of Franklin County has been interpreted for multiple uses that are applicable to fire planning. The Appendix has the following maps of soil interpretation:

- Wildlife Habitat
- Land Use

## **2.7 Hydrology**

### **Bodies of Water**

There are no wild/scenic rivers within the planning area. Bear River and Cub River are the main waterways in Franklin County. Besides providing recreational opportunities and watershed provisions, the rivers and their tributaries provide a water source for fire engines and helicopters during wildfire suppression operations. Most rivers and creeks in Franklin County are accessible, with either a direct or adjacent road access.

Bear River and Cub River tributaries are: Cottonwood Creek, Maple Creek, Mink Creek, Strawberry Creek, Williams Creek and Worm Creek. There are several other minor tributaries. Worm Creek which is now controlled by the Foster Reservoir is primarily an irrigation source.

Irrigation reservoirs are Condie, Foster, Glendale, Lamont, Johnson, Narrows, Oxford, Strong Arm, Treasureton, Twin Lakes and Winder. Besides providing recreational opportunities and watershed provisions, these reservoirs can provide a water source for fire engines and helicopters during wildfire suppression operations.

River flow rates generally peak in June with low flow rates occurring in August and September, which is wildfire season. This water flow pattern limits the water available for fire protection.

There are no known sole source aquifers in Franklin County. There are multiple watersheds in Franklin County.



## **Public Drinking Water**

Many towns and communities rely on springs for their potable water sources. Bergquist Springs serves the largest population area of nearly 5,000 people. Other potable springs include Ranger, Birch, Five Mile, and Clifton. These springs are enclosed with the water being piped to each town. Other infrastructures associated with these water sources include pipe lines, pipe crossings, flow meters, storage tanks, chlorination facilities and hydroelectric plants. There are also private hydroelectric plants on other creeks.

The hydrology of Burgquist Springs has been investigated by DEQ. Preston's Source Water Assessment shows the area around the springs to be free of potential contaminants and the 10 year migration of water is within 10,000 foot radii of the springs. As the largest potable water source in the county, protection of the surrounding area should be given a high priority.

Annual precipitation in Franklin County averages about 16.5 inches. Approximately half of this rainfall returns directly to the atmosphere through evaporation and transpiration of plants. The remaining water leaves the area in the form of surface runoff or is stored in aquifers.

According to Soil Conservation Service (SCS) reports on the Preston area, the water table depth will vary from 2 to 6 feet in some areas and 6 to 8 feet in others. In 2001, monitoring wells in central Preston were showing water table depth at 12 feet.

## **2.8 Flora & Fauna**

Franklin County has a wide variety of wildlife species and habitat. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game manages wildlife population, and the U.S. Forest Service, BLM and Idaho Department of Lands are responsible for wildlife habitats on lands they manage. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has classified the flora, fauna and other natural communities as:

### **2.8.1 Flora**

The most prevalent species in WUI areas are: maple, aspen, sagebrush, and Douglas fir.

### **2.8.2 Fauna**

Mammals that are found in Franklin County are: deer, elk, moose, bear, and the occasional wolf. Coyote, bobcat, badger, beaver, raccoons, porcupines and skunks can also be found.

Upland birds present include: grouse, pheasant, and turkey.

Waterfowl habitat is widespread throughout the county as it is on a minor flyway.

Waterfowl present include Canada geese, numerous duck species, swan and sandhill cranes.

Other Natural Communities, USDA does not list other natural communities, but other birds common to Franklin County are: flickers, woodpeckers, robins, killdeer, mountain bluebirds, hummingbirds, red-winged blackbirds, ravens, crows, and magpies.

The existing flora and fauna have been a part of the ecosystem since the 1880's when the County was first settled. Changes to that ecosystem have been the grazing of cattle. Appendix A contains a map of Wildlife habitat not on U.S. Forest Service lands.

## ***2.9 Archeological and Historic Sites***

A web search of archeological and historic sites identified the Idaho State Historical Society as the central repository of information on these topics. Their web site identified the following locations:

### ***2.9.1 Historic Places in Franklin County***

The National Register of Historic Places listed the following:

#### Franklin City:

- Franklin City Hall, 128 E Main St.
- Franklin Co-operative Mercantile, 113 E Main St.
- L.H. Hatch House, East Main.

#### Preston City:

- Bear River Battleground, NW Preston off U.S. 91
- Matthias Crowley House, 110 S. 1<sup>st</sup> E.
- Franklin County Courthouse, 39 W. Oneida
- Oneida Stake Academy, SW corner of S 1<sup>st</sup> E and Oneida
- U.S. Post Office, 55 E Oneida

#### Weston:

- Weston Canyon Rock shelter, Address restricted to protect this site

### ***2.9.2 Other Places of Community Value:***

- "Bob's Mart", Second J.C. Penny's store - Preston
- Ezra Taft Benson, Birthplace - Whitney
- Range Wars, Franklin
- Mink Creek's Klondike, Gold Hill Ranch
- Burnt Church Ranch

- Hwy 34 is a Scenic Byway
- Oneida Narrows Power Plant
- Willow Creek Campgrounds
- Scout Camp
- Twin Lakes Campground
- Cemeteries

## **2.10 Recreation**

Recreation is critically important to the economy of Franklin County. Recreational assets are fishing, hunting, and snow activities. The close proximity to National forests contributes to making recreation based activities highly attractive.

Water-based activities are fishing, boating, swimming and water skiing. Land based activities include: off road vehicles, camping, hiking, mountain biking, bike racing, birding, hunting, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and cross country skiing. The more popular recreation areas in the county are:

- Glendale Reservoir
- Twin Lakes
- Willow Flats Campground
- Cub River

## **2.11 Transportation and Commuting**

### **2.11.1 Highways**

For an area of over 667 square miles, Franklin County has about 60 miles of roads maintained by Idaho Transportation Department and 350 miles of roads maintained by the County Road and Bridge Department. There is extensive use of the road system in Franklin County by out-of-county traffic. Franklin County receives no additional funds for added maintenance or road deterioration associated with this out-of-county use. The majority of vehicle transportation in Franklin County occurs on one of three paved State Highways:

- State Highway 91 connects the Cache Valley in Utah with Bannock County
- State Highway 34 connects the Cache Valley in Utah with Caribou County
- Oneida County is connected to Franklin County only by State Highway 36.

There are no connective east-west county roads. Connections to the south can be made by county roads, but there are few northerly connections outside of the County. Franklin County maintains a large number of bridges on its road system. These bridges do not always meet current bridge standards and have weight limits less than would be required for fire equipment. These bridges need to be upgraded to adequately serve fire needs.

### ***2.11.2 Rail Transportation***

Union Pacific Railroad maintains two rail lines in the county: 1) a major rail line which connects Salt Lake and the switching yard in Pocatello for passenger/cargo going to Montana and Oregon and 2) a minor spur track from Utah ends in Preston.

### ***2.11.3 USDA-Forest Service Roads***

The USDA Forest Service, Cache National Forest and Caribou National Forest, have built and maintain numerous two-lane gravel roads throughout the county for recreation, and logging. Some of these have been closed and many are currently gated with access allowed for seasonal use or during a wildfire. The National Forests have a Travel Plan with requirements for the trail system and off road or trail travel.

The existence of Federal and State forests and parks draws high numbers of recreational users participating in various spring, summer, fall and winter activities. Road funds come largely from County, State and Federal sources, augmented by Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funds paid by the U.S. Government for the surrounding government lands, i.e. BLM, National Forests. Recently the U.S. Government has failed to fully fund PILT payments, so the county has had addition burdens on their financial resources.

### ***2.12 Aviation Facilities***

Franklin County has no regularly scheduled commercial (passenger/cargo) flights. The airport is located in the northwest corner of Preston. The airstrip's traffic increases during weekends and crop dusting season. It can also be used to support various fixed and rotor-wing aircraft during large or multiple wildfire incidents. Currently, there are plans to lengthen the runway, if grant funds can be acquired.

### ***2.13 Emergency Services***

Franklin County has an organized response to emergencies. Responsibilities are assigned by organization:

**Franklin County Emergency Service and Civil Defense** has personnel trained in coordination during times of emergency.

**Search and Rescue** - is also coordinated by the Franklin County Emergency Service, utilizing the Sheriff's Office and FCFD.

**Law Enforcement** - Franklin County Sheriff provides law enforcement to the county and within the municipalities of Weston, Dayton, Clifton, Oxford, and Franklin. The City of Preston has it's own law enforcement. Idaho State Police provide additional law enforcement for the state's highways.

**Ambulance Services** - Franklin County provides ambulance Services to the entire county. They are located in Preston at the FCFD building.

**Hospital Services** - Franklin County Hospital is located in Preston.

**Fire Protection** - Franklin County Fire District provided for the entire county. Mutual assistance agreements between FCFD and the surrounding counties in Idaho and Utah are in effect to provide emergency fire protection for structures from wildfires. Mutual assistance agreements are also in effect between FCFD, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Services for wildfire protection in the county.



### 3. The Planning Process

In 2003, FCFD received a grant to develop a WUIFMP. A consultant was hired to assist in the preparation of the plan. The consultant worked with the WUIFMP Planning Group to develop a Scope of Work and tentative time schedule. The Scope of Work planned for citizen involvement. The goals of citizen involvement are:

- Inspire the public to action
- Understand community based concerns
- Raise awareness

#### 3.1 Information/Comment Handouts

Questionnaires were distributed door to door in the interface areas to 220 homes. Also, questionnaire data was collected at a booth during the County Fair. A 17% response from those contacted was received. The data from these questionnaires were used in the problem identification process, value at-risk and hazard prioritization processes. The questionnaires included information about wildland urban interface fires and why this data was being collected.

Together with the questionnaire data collection, information handouts describing what home owners could do to protect their property were also distributed.

#### 1. What town or community do you live in, or closest to?

Community	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Cub River	6	17.14%	17.14%
Maple Creek	3	8.57%	25.71%
Mink Creek	3	8.57%	34.28%
Cotton Wood Creek	1	2.86%	37.14%
Oxford	5	14.29%	51.43%
Dayton	1	2.86%	54.29%
Preston	7	20.00%	74.29%
Weston	4	11.43%	85.72%
Glendale	1	2.86%	88.58%
Riverdale	4	11.43%	100%
Total	35		

#### 2. How great a risk do you think wildfires pose to your residence? (Please circle one response.)

Risk	Cub River	Maple Creek	Mink Creek	Cotton Wood	Oxford	Dayton	Preston	Weston	Glendale	Riverdale	Total
None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slight	0	0	1	1	2	0	3	2	1	2	12
Moderate	4	1	0	0	3	1	2	1	0	1	13
High	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	7
Very High	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3



**3. Would your insurance cover all of this fire loss?**

Insured?	Cub River	Maple Creek	Mink Creek	Cotton Wood	Oxford	Dayton	Preston	Weston	Glendale	Riverdale	Total
Yes	5	1	1	0	4	0	2	2	0	2	17
No	1	2	2	1	1	1	5	2	1	1	17
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

**4. What areas around your community do you think are extreme fire hazards?  
(Frequency of written response)**

- ☐ None (1)
- ☐ Uncut fields with dry weeds (6)
- ☐ Dry foothills (13)
- ☐ Canyons (2)
- ☐ Dry Roadside grass (1)
- ☐ Cub River Area (3)
- ☐ Forest Areas (4)
- ☐ Hay Stacks (1)
- ☐ Oneida Narrows (2)
- ☐ Weston Canyon (2)

**5. What do you think might be the best way to reduce (mitigate), these hazards?**

- ☐ Nothing (1)
- ☐ Mow dry fields (5)
- ☐ People playing with fire (1)
- ☐ Controlled Burns (2)
- ☐ Graze Grass (4)
- ☐ Landscape Education (2)
- ☐ More Fire Stations (2)
- ☐ Restrict burning and Camp fires (2)
- ☐ Spray weeds (2)
- ☐ Clean around structures (1)
- ☐ Mow roadsides (1)
- ☐ Public Awareness (2)
- ☐ More rain (1)

**6. Do you know of any recent actions or education programs taken by your community, the county, etc., to reduce the risk of wildland fires or to protect residents from wildfires spreading from public land to private?**

Yes	4
No	31

**If "yes", what was the nature of the action or program(s)?**

- ☐ Teaching School Children fire safety (2)
- ☐ Citizens mowing side of road

**Who sponsored it, and when?**

- ☐ Fire Department (2)
- ☐ Unknown (2)

**7. Besides residences and community buildings, please list other locations or properties (may or may not be a structure) that have high environmental, cultural, or economic value that you feel should be a priority for fire risk reduction.**

- ☐ No response (8)
- ☐ The entire valley (1)
- ☐ Forested Areas (5)
- ☐ Wildlife habitat (3)
- ☐ Campground in the Forest (2)
- ☐ Indian Grounds (1)
- ☐ CRP fields (2)
- ☐ Homes (1)
- ☐ Schools (1)
- ☐ Churches (1)
- ☐ Crops (1)

**8. Do you think your community is adequately prepared to combat wildland fires?**

Yes	13
No	22

**If you answered "no", what do you think could be done to improve your town's/subdivision's firefighting capabilities?**

- ☐ Don't know (1)
- ☐ More Equipment (4)
- ☐ Better response time (1)
- ☐ More fire stations (4)
- ☐ Call in the reserves (1)
- ☐ Professional fire fighters (2)
- ☐ Public education (2)
- ☐ Pressure water system (3)
- ☐ Weed control (1)
- ☐ Call US Forest Service (2)
- ☐ Fire Hydrant in Glendale is never checked (1)

To summarize the comments from the questionnaires:

- 50% of the residences in Franklin County are fully insured for the loss by fire
- Nearly 71% feel the risk of wildfire is between slight and moderately high
- 69 % feel that the risk of wildfire is from Dry Weeds and Uncut Grasses
- 63% feel we are not prepared for wildfires.
- Top ways to be prepared for wildfires were: More equipment and fire stations

### ***3.2 Workshop Series***

Workshops were conducted in July and August. The first workshop series was to identify problems. Citizens and agencies were asked to identify problems and strategies related to wildland urban interface fire hazards, risks and issues. Information provided was used to help the committee develop a set of preliminary actions.

A second workshop was conducted for public review of the draft set of goals developed by the planning committee.

### ***3.3 Planning Committee Meetings***

Planning Committee meeting minutes are in the appendix. In brief:

The first meeting, held 7/7/04, was an introduction and organizational meeting;

The second committee, held 7/21/04, was open to the Public Meeting for to gather their ideas, the committee reviewed the format of the questionnaires, problems identified, equipment inventories, and a draft set of goals;

The third meeting, held 8/4/04 the committee identified goals to mitigate the areas of risk;

The fourth meeting, held 8/18/04, was open to the Public Meeting for to gather their ideas, the committee agreed on the goals and priorities presented;

The Fifth meeting, held 9/1/04, the committee reviews "Mitigation Strategy and Implementation"; and

The Sixth and final meeting, held 9/15/04, the committee reviewed the Draft Plan.

### ***3.4 Public Review***

One final public meeting was held by the Planning Committee to receive public comment on the draft plan. At the conclusion of that meeting the committee made a recommendation of approval.

## **4. Hazard Identification, Location, Risk**

Franklin County has been the site of numerous large wildfires over the past thirty years. The fuels, weather and topography in Franklin County combine to make wildfire an annual hazard with associated risks.

Traditionally, lightning causes 51% of the fires within Eastern Idaho and 49% are human caused (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/caribou-targhee/EIIFC/Data/Data/Statistics.htm>). Additionally, there were numerous small fires started by farm equipment working in the fields. These fires were numerous in number, but small in size due to the inability of the farmed fields to carry a fire and because the farmers would extinguish the fires as quickly as they would start.

With the inclusion of previously farmed fields into the CRP program there have been fewer fires started by farm equipment. However, there is a growing concern with Franklin County residents that while the number of fires has gone down, the potential for larger, more catastrophic fires has increased. This is due to the increased fuel load on CRP lands and the absence of farmers in the field to stop fires before they become large.

The Fire Map in Appendix A depicts those areas that have burned over the past three decades. From the map it is clear that several areas have burned repeatedly during that time. Landscape scars from past intense large wildfires are obvious in much of the County. The vegetative recovery from many of these wildfires is ongoing and many of the burned areas have been converted to cheat grass and other invasive plant species.

### ***4.1 Wildfire Fuels in Franklin County***

Wildfire depends upon vegetative fuels. This mix of native vegetation and the changes in that vegetation due to human activity create the resources for possible wildfire. Fuels that contribute to wildfires in Franklin County range from cheat grass/low elevation shrub steppe to pinion- juniper on the West side, and mid-elevation shrub steppe/mountain shrub evident at higher elevations on the East side. Farmland/shrub steppe/with a cheat grass under story (including lands in CRP) is the major wildfire fuel near communities, homes or developments.

Obviously, as the amount of vegetation types or their height increases, the potential for intensive fire rises. Of particular concern is when ground fuels burn intensively enough to ignite ladder fuels that help carry the fire upwards from the ground to the taller trees, setting off the potential for a crown fire where the fire can spread rapidly through the forest - given the intensity of the wind and other climatic conditions.

The fuel composition in Franklin County is mixed, varying from small grain crops in the valley to sages and trees on the perimeter. In those areas most prone to wildfires, human activity has changed the nature of the fuels in the region. Urbanization and disease have reduced the number of fire-tolerant species, increasing the probability of wildfire. In addition, fire suppression has increased the amount of ground and ladder fuels within the region.

Fire exclusion and lack of mechanical treatment (thinning) have resulted in dense stands of low elevation shrub steppe/with a grass under story. Where fire has been present, the native grass and shrub species have been replaced with noxious weeds/cheat grass or other invasive non-native species. These grasses and weeds areas provide available fuel for wildfire spread and increased intensity. Drought, combined with these vegetation types, provides additional dead vegetation to fuel future wildfires.

Farmland that has been placed in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has shown significant increases in wildfire fuel loads. Because of restrictions on vegetation manipulation activities on CRP land fuel material has been allowed to accumulate for several years on these sites. The limitation of vegetation manipulation has also resulted in an invasion of non-native species on some CRP land.

#### ***4.2 Franklin County Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI)***

Franklin County contains numerous developments that are in two of the three defined WUI categories. These categories are:

**Classic Interface:** An area where well-defined urban and suburban development press up against open expanses of wildland areas.

**Mixed Interface:** Isolated homes, subdivisions, and small communities situated predominantly in wildland settings.

**Occluded Interface:** Islands of wildland vegetation occurring inside largely urbanized areas.

Most of Franklin County is in the mixed interface category, with the cities of Dayton, Clifton, and Oxford fitting the classic interface definition.

#### ***4.3 Risk Assessment***

The accumulation of fuels in the forests of Franklin County poses risks to those who inhabit the WUI zone. There are risks to resources as well ,i.e., wildlife habitat, water and recreation resources. However, the focus on this plan is to reduce risk to people and homes.

#### ***4.4 National Fire Plan***

In August 2000, the Clinton Administration directed the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to prepare a report that would recommend how best to respond to the year's severe wildland fires, reduce the impacts of such wildland fires on rural communities, and ensure sufficient firefighting resources in the future. The report, titled "Managing the Impacts of Wildfire on Communities and the Environment: A Report to the President in Response to the Wildfires of 2000," is called The National Fire Plan for short. In August 2001, a comprehensive strategy was released that involved the Governors of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior with the

"Implementation Plan" which was signed May 23, 2003. This plan is part of Idaho's Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan.

The National Fire Plan ([www.fireplan.gov](http://www.fireplan.gov)), as published in the Federal Register August 17, 2003, identifies all of the major communities in Franklin County as at-risk communities. The risk was assessed by the cumulative information from those federal agencies dealing with wildland fire hazards. It is this fire plan that helps set the stage for providing for funds for hazardous fuels treatment. Although this is a broad brush stroke of assessment, it provides evidence that the County does have a serious wildfire risk and that there is a threat to property and persons.

#### **4.5 Hazard Locations**

The Franklin County Fire Mitigation Planning Group, using the fire map for 1970 - 2003 and field observation, identified hazard areas with the County. The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Graphical Information System (GIS) personnel created a map of this information.

The areas of High Risk are:

- Maple Creek (Franklin)
- Cub River
- Oneida Narrows
- Cottonwood Creek
- West Oxford
- West Dayton

The areas of Moderate Risk are:

- Lower Cub River
- Glendale
- Mink Creek
- Maple Grove
- Twin Lakes



**Cub River - Narrow Roads and Heavy Fuels**



**Maple Grove - CRP Lands**



**Mink Creek - Roads & Terrain**



**Maple Creek - Access**





**Oxford - Steep Terrain**



**Dayton - Steep Terrain**



**Weed Control on CRP lands**



## **4.6 Other Hazard Issues**

The interface areas within Franklin County are characterized by a diverse mixture of varying housing structures, development patterns, ornamental and natural vegetation and natural fuels. In the event of a wildfire, vegetation, structures and other flammables can merge with unpredictable results. Reviewing past WUI fires shows that most property is destroyed or damaged for one or more of the following reasons:



- Combustible roofing material
- Wood construction
- Structures with no defensible space
- Fire departments with poor or limited road access to structures
- Developments located in heavy natural fuel types
- Structure/properties located on steep slopes covered with flammable vegetation
- Limited water supply.

Franklin County exhibits all of these characteristics either throughout the County, or in some instances, within a very concentrated area. During every public meeting about this planning effort several of the issues identified above were echoed by the public.

### **4.6.1 Limited Road Access**

This is a major issue for emergency service providers within the County. As population trends and demands for housing increase, some developments exhibit less than adequate turn-around space for emergency vehicles. Some County communities and developments are challenged by steep narrow roadways, while others are served by bridges that have weight restrictions imposed, thereby eliminating various types of fire suppression resources as an option in protecting lives and properties.



#### **4.6.2 Limited Water Supply**

In remote developments/communities within the County, limited water supply continues to hamper suppression operations in the WUI areas. Those areas characteristically have inadequate water systems and lack of hydrants. Additionally, concern was expressed about emergency power supply to critical water sources as power supply tends to be easily disrupted when wildland fires occur.

#### **4.6.3 Home location and condition**

At each of the public meetings, home location and condition was raised. There is no good inventory regarding the location of homes within the County and the conditions and resources available at each home to assist in wildland fire suppression or help in planning fire suppression priorities.

#### **4.6.4 Time to respond**

For volunteer fire departments, the time to respond is poor in outlying areas. This is due in part to the location of firefighting equipment. FCFD has one fire station, which is located in Preston. In conjunction with the fire rating personnel, three additional fire station locations have been identified:

- Dayton
- Franklin
- Thatcher

These additional fire stations would need to be equipped with first responder capabilities.

#### **4.7 Noxious Weeds & Exotic Annual Grasses**

Increased infestations of noxious weeds and exotic annual grasses increase the wildfire fire risk. The County Weed Director's maps show the infestations within the County.

The weed infestations within the areas of risk are:

##### **Maple Creek (Franklin)**

- Canadian Thistle
- Leafy Spurge
- Poison Hemlock
- Spotted Knapweed
- Jointed Goat grass
- Hoary Cress
- Cheatgrass
- Cub River
  - Canadian Thistle
  - Scotch Thistle
  - Poison Hemlock
  - Jointed Goatgrass
  - Cheatgrass
- Oneida Narrows
  - Canadian Thistle
  - Musk Thistle
  - Scotch Thistle
  - Poison Hemlock
  - Cheatgrass
- Cottonwood Creek
  - Canadian Thistle
  - Musk thistle
  - Spotted Knapweed

- Cheatgrass
- Oxford
  - Canadian Thistle
  - Musk Thistle
  - Spotted Knapweed
  - Cheatgrass
- Dayton
  - Canadian Thistle
  - Leafy Spurge
  - Puncture Vine
  - Poison Hemlock
  - Spotted Knapweed
  - Cheatgrass

The areas of Moderate Risk are:

- Lower Cub River
  - Canadian Thistle
  - Musk Thistle
  - Cheatgrass
- Glendale
  - Canadian Thistle
  - Poison Hemlock
  - Jointed Goatgrass
  - Cheatgrass
- Mink Creek
  - Canadian Thistle
  - Cheatgrass
- Maple Grove
  - Canadian Thistle
  - Musk Thistle
  - Poison Hemlock
  - Cheatgrass
- Twin Lakes
  - Canadian Thistle
  - Perennial Sow Thistle
  - Scotch Thistle
  - Dalmatian Toadflax
  - Jointed Goat grass
  - Hoary Cress
  - Cheatgrass

## 4.8 Values at Risk

Values at risk to wildfire in Franklin County includes privately owned homes and property, County assets (buildings, communication sites, road/highway stabilization or repair), soil stability concerns, critical wildlife winter ranges, recreational activities and tourism, and the safety of residents, visitors, and fire fighters in the fuel types, conditions and rugged terrain of Franklin County. The county currently has over 3,700 homes and other property valued at more than \$244 million.

These figures do not include the millions of dollars in farm land, livestock and other personal assets that are at risk to wildland fire. Light industry assets in the southern portion of the County are also at risk include the Wrightwood Egg production and processing facility and mining equipment in the central area of the county. These assets are valued in the multi-millions of dollars and are significant to the tax base of Franklin County.

Three highway transportation corridors, State Highways 34, 36 and 91 are vulnerable to wildfire. Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Forest Service and County roads have been closed on numerous occasions because of wildfires. Wood power poles and power lines are at risk in a wildland fire situation. Not only does a fire have the potential to ignite wood poles, there is the possibility of "carbon-pathing" and power interruption.

Power outages on transmission lines in Franklin County can have a catastrophic effect on people in the whole Western United States.

Currently there is no comprehensive inventory of homes. However, the approximate numbers of homes, structures, and places of community value within the High Risk Areas are:

- Maple Creek (Franklin) - 50 homes, Public Water Supplies, Recreation
- Cub River - 150 homes, Churches, Public Water Supplies, Recreation, Historic Sites, Cemetery
- Oneida Narrows - 75 homes, power supplies
- Cottonwood Creek - 30 homes, Churches, Recreation
- Oxford - 50 homes, Churches, Recreation, Public Water Supplies, Cemetery
- Dayton - 25 homes, Churches, Recreation, Public Water Supplies

Total = 380 homes

The Areas of Moderate Risk are:

- Lower Cub River - 35 homes, Churches, Public Water Supplies
- Glendale - 30 homes, Recreation, Mining, Hydroelectric Plant, Public Drinking Water Facilities, Irrigation Facilities
- Mink Creek - 25 homes, Churches, Public Water Supplies, Recreation
- Maple Grove - 50 homes, Churches, Public Water Supplies, Recreation
- Twin Lakes - 25 homes, Recreation, Irrigation Facilities

Total = 165 homes

## 4.9 Hazard Prioritization

Based on the hazards discussion, the planning team constructed eleven different hazard statements that encompassed the hazard discussions. The planning team then prioritized the hazard issues by rating each issue as having a High, Medium or Low impact on each of the three plan goals for 1) protection of life, 2) protection of property, and 3) protection of resources. The following table shows the results of the rating process, with the issues sorted in priority order from most important to least important.

Rating Process Results				
Issues	Life	Property	Resources	Priority
Franklin County's subdivisions & homeowners in High Risk Areas are without emergency wildfire plans or other emergency plans in place.	5	5	5	15.00
Franklin County's Subdivision and Building Code Ordinances need to be revised to address fire protection and prevention.	5	5	5	15.00
Franklin County has limited sources of water for fighting wildland fires and many of those sources are vulnerable to disruption of service in the event of a wildland fire.	5	5	5	15.00
Franklin County has limited fire station locations and equipment that result in poor response times to fires in outlying portions of the county.	5	5	3	13.00
Franklin County has numerous county roads, infrastructure, communication sites, developments and communities that require hazardous fuels reduction (HFR).	3	5	3	11.00
Franklin County lacks defensible space, fire resistant building materials, and adequate bridges in some developments and at private homes.	5	5	1	11.00
Franklin County's volunteer fire department is having difficulty meeting standards or requirements pertaining to: Training, PPE, Communications, Equipment, Apparatus and Facilities.	3	3	3	9.00
Franklin County citizens have had limited Firewise education, information and awareness with regards to wildland fire.	3	3	3	9.00
Franklin County and Forest Service Roads lack turnouts for emergency vehicles to pass slower vehicles and weight limits are not posted on all bridges.	3	3	3	9.00
Franklin County has no comprehensive inventory of homes and values at risk in the event of a wildland fire.	1	3	1	5.00
Franklin County has a large amount of land in the CRP increasing fuel loads beyond what would normally occur on tilled farmland.	1	3	1	5.00

## **4.10 Existing Resources & Mitigation Programs**

Existing mitigation activities include current mitigation programs and activities that are being implemented by county, state and federal agencies within Franklin County.

### **4.10.1 Local Resources**

FCFD was formed in 2001 by combining Preston City's and Franklin County's Fire Departments. Their combined staffs consist of 28 volunteers. The current inventory of equipment is:

- Three (3) Type 1 Structure Engines
- One (1) Type 1 Pumper/Tender
- One (1) Type 2 Rescue
- One (1) Type 3 Pumper
- Five (5) Type 6 Brush Trucks
- Two (2) Support Vehicles

There is an immediate need for:

- One (1) Pumper/Tender.

When the additional Fire Stations are constructed there will be a need for additional equipment to be housed at each of these stations. That equipment will probably be:

- Type 6 Brush Truck
- Type 1 Structure Engine
- Tanker
- EMT Vehicle

### **4.10.2 Local Programs**

Local programs have been:

- Fire prevention educational in schools
- Inspections of structures and businesses
- Training for personnel
- Acquiring adequate equipment

### **4.10.3 County Codes**

Franklin County's Subdivision Ordinances established road standards, conditions of design and construction for new roads in subdivisions.

Franklin County's Building Inspection Ordinances contain guidance for design requirements for structure construction within the County.

#### **4.10.4 Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) Programs**

- Provides education to property owners about fire hazards in WUI areas.
- Manages the Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program to assist landowners or counties with grant funds for reduction of hazardous fuels.
- Manages the Forest Stewardship program,
- Provides suppression training and resources as requested.
- Declares fire closures when wildfire danger ratings and conditions require.

#### **4.10.5 Federal Programs**

The role of the federal land managing agencies in Franklin County is focused on reducing fuel hazards on the lands they administer. They also provide prevention and education programs, provide technical and financial assistance and develop agreements and partnerships with other agencies and private stakeholders in an effort to provide for safer communities within the wildland areas. Some of the programs provide grants to rural fire districts within the County, which has enhanced the current operations, and will continue to do so within the foreseeable future.

Fire Suppression Assistance Grants may be provided to a state with an approved hazard mitigation plan. These grants are provided to protect life and improved property. The grant may include funds for training, equipment, supplies, and personnel.

#### **4.10.6 National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Protection Program**

Federal agencies can use the National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Protection Program to focus on wildland/urban interface fire protection issues and actions. The Western Governors' Association (WGA) uses this program to involve state agencies, as well as local agencies and private stakeholders.

#### **4.10.7 Prescribed Burning/Mechanical/Biological Treatment**

Within Franklin County, the inclusion of cropland in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), coupled with historical fire exclusion has resulted in a backlog of fuel accumulation. As a result, new ignitions can move more quickly and intensely. Prescribed burning and/or mechanical treatment are the most efficient methods to mitigate these fuels. Biological treatment (regulated grazing) of some fuels has also been utilized with success in other areas of Idaho.

#### **4.10.8 Firewise**

Firewise is a program developed within the National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Protection Program. It is administered through the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), with the intention of educating planners and decision makers at the local level. Firewise offers online wildfire protection information and checklists, as well as listings of other publications, videos, and conferences. Future developments in Franklin County that would be planned and coordinated as "Firewise" communities would likely be well received by potential home buyers.



## 5. Hazards and Goals

Hazard prioritization and mitigation goals are in accordance with the stated objectives and priorities, specifically: Protection of Life, Property and Values at Risk. The mitigation goals were developed in response to the issues identified by the Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Group and input from the public meetings. The list of mitigation goals responds directly to the hazards faced and the issues raised by the residents of Franklin County.

*Hazard 1:* Franklin County's subdivisions & homeowners in High Risk Areas are without emergency wildfire plans or other emergency plans in place.

*Mitigation Goal 1:* Develop County Fire-Emergency Mobilization Plan and County/Interagency Communications Plan with Landowners and Cooperators in Franklin County and develop subdivision/homeowners wildfire and other emergency operations plan(s) as requested.

*Hazard 2:* Franklin County's Subdivision and Building Code Ordinances need to be revised to address fire protection and prevention for new developments.

*Mitigation Goal 2:* Develop changes to the Franklin County Subdivision Ordinance and Building Code ordinance to address fire protection and prevention for new developments and construction. Utilizing standard Fire Protection Guidelines for Residential Development as identified in NFPA 1144, Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire, 2002 edition.

*Hazard 3:* Franklin County has limited sources of water for fighting wildland fires and many of those sources are vulnerable to disruption of service in the event of a wildland fire.

*Mitigation Goal 3:* Provide additional sources of water at strategic locations throughout Franklin County and means of supplementing or replacing service in the event of disruption.

*Hazard 4:* Franklin County has limited fire station locations and equipment that result in poor response times to fires in outlying portions of the County.

*Mitigation Goal 4:* Provide Franklin County Fire District with facility improvements and equipment as identified and improve coverage in areas where facilities and equipment are currently lacking.

*Hazard 5:* Franklin County has numerous county roads, infrastructure, communication sites, developments and communities that require hazardous fuels reduction (HFR).

Mitigation Goal 5: Reduce identified hazardous fuels buildup in high-risk areas on a countywide scale.

*Hazard 6:* Franklin County lacks defensible space, fire resistant building materials, and adequate bridges in some developments and at private homes.

Mitigation Goal 6: Create defensible space standards for existing homeowners and developments and utilize standard Fire Protection Guidelines for Residential Development as identified in NFPA 1144, Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire, 2002 edition. Implementation of these standards will be by voluntary compliance and required construction standards for re-roofing structures. (See Goal 2.)

*Hazard 7:* Franklin County's volunteer fire department is having difficulty meeting standards or requirements pertaining to: Training, PPE, Communications, Equipment, Apparatus and Facilities.

Mitigation Goal 7: Provide Franklin County Fire District personnel with required training, communications, PPE, apparatus, facility improvements and equipment as identified.

*Hazard 8:* Franklin County citizens have had limited Firewise education, information and awareness with regards to wildland fire.

Mitigation Goal 8: Gain community or development participation in Firewise activities including education and information distribution.

*Hazard 9:* Franklin County and Forest Service Roads lack turnouts for emergency vehicles to pass slower vehicles and weight limits are not posted on all bridges.

Mitigation Goal 9: Work with the road agencies to construct vehicle turnouts where needed and install weight limit signs on bridges.

*Hazard 10:* Franklin County has no comprehensive inventory of homes and values at risk in the event of a wildland fire.

Mitigation Goal 10: Develop a comprehensive inventory of homes and provide the inventory to dispatchers and FCFD in times of emergency response.

*Hazard 11:* Franklin County has a large amount of land in the CRP increasing fuel loads beyond what would normally occur on tilled farmland.

Mitigation Goal 11: Apply fuels treatment - hand, mechanical, prescribed fire or combination of treatments to reduce fuels loads on CRP land.

## 5. Mitigation Strategies for Goal Implementation

The wildfire mitigation action items provide direction on specific activities that organizations and residents in Franklin County can undertake to reduce risk and prevent loss from wildfire events. Each action item for the stated goal is followed by ideas to be used by local entities to pursue strategies for implementation. The recommended lead organization(s) is in bold type.

**Goal 1: Develop County Fire-Emergency Mobilization Plan and County/Interagency Communications Plan with landowners and cooperators in Franklin County and develop subdivision/homeowners wildfire and other emergency operations plan(s) as requested.**

### Action Item

- A. Develop escape routes for the Maple Creek, Cub River (including Willow Flats & Scout Camp), Cotton Wood Creek, Oneida Narrows, Oxford, and Dayton areas.

### Strategies

- Conduct public meetings with homeowner associations, groups and private homeowners to develop community-based evacuation plans and procedures for selected, isolated neighborhoods, communities or developments, specifically starting with the Cub River Development Area.
- Establish a system of identifying designated escape routes from subdivisions and neighborhoods through use of signs or route markers.
- Initiate public information campaign, through use of mailers, public service announcements, and public meetings to educate residents about escape routes and evacuation planning.
- Street name signs that: 1) meet NFPA standards and 2) show the coordinate system.

Coordinating Organizations:

- **Franklin County Emergency Services**
- USDA-Forest service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- FCFD
- Bureau of Land Management

*Target Date: Winter 2004/2005*

*Costs: No hard dollar costs for public meetings.  
Estimate approximately \$2,000 for public education activities, signs.*

**Goal 2: Develop changes to the Franklin County Subdivision Ordinance and Building Code ordinance to address fire protection and prevention for new developments and construction. Utilizing standard Fire Protection Guidelines for Residential Development as identified in NFPA 1144, Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire, 2002 edition.**

### **Action Item**

- A. Develop Franklin County Ordinances to modify the existing Subdivision Ordinance and Building permit Ordinance to provide for Fire Protection as identified in NFPA 1144, 2002 edition. Street name signs that: 1) meet NFPA standards and 2) show the coordinate system.
- B. Work with the County Planning & Zoning Commission for approval of the ordinance changes.
- C. Work with the County Commissioners for approval of the ordinance changes.

### **Strategies**

- Develop ordinances that state: New subdivision plats must be approved by the Franklin County Fire District prior to approval by the County Commissioners
- Develop ordinances that state: New home construction plans in the High Risk and Moderate Risk Areas as identified, must be approved by the Franklin County Fire Marshall prior to issuance.
- Develop an ordinance that establishes a fee schedule for the reimbursement of the Franklin County Fire Marshall's time.

### **Coordinating Organizations:**

- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Planning & Zoning Commission
- Franklin County Commissioners
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- USDA-Forest service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management

*Target Date: FY 2005*

*Costs: Estimate approximately \$6,000 in Consultant's time.  
Estimate approximately \$1,000 for two public hearings.  
No hard dollar costs for public meetings.*

**Goal 3: Provide additional sources of water at strategic locations throughout Franklin County and means of supplementing or replacing service in the event of disruption.**

**Action Item**

- A. Locate (using GPS) and document (type of source and reliability) potential water sources available at farms and homes in the County. Include potential water drafting sites. Annually update the information and provide to organizations and agencies conducting fire suppression operations in the County.

**Strategies**

- Budget for and Purchase the necessary hardware and software
- Organize volunteers to collect the data annually

Coordinating Organizations:

- **Franklin County Emergency Services**
- Franklin County Planning & Zoning Commission
- Franklin County Commissioners
- FCFD
- USDA-Forest service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management
- Local Volunteer Organizations

*Target Date: Annually by May or June*

*Costs: Two GPS units with moving map (purchased separately) and computer cable for upload/download (garmin etrex legend type): \$800 (@\$400 ea)  
No hard dollar costs for volunteer time.*

- B. Purchase and strategically locate four (4) mobile emergency power generators to power local water sources in the event of power loss.

- *Purchase equipment as required*

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Home Owners Associations
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- USDA-Forest service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management
- Local Volunteer Organizations

*Target Date: Summer 2005*

*Costs: (4) 15,000 Watt generators: \$10,000 (@ \$2,500.00 ea.)*

C. Locate and place "Dry Hydrants" along strategic creeks in the Cub River and Maple Creek and Mink Creek areas where domestic water sources are not available.

- Locate "Dry Hydrant Locations
- Negotiate with land owner for access as required
- Budget for and install "Dry Hydrants".

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Home Owners Associations
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- USDA-Forest service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management
- Local Volunteer Organizations

*Target Date: 2005*

*Costs: \$20,000 each*

D. Power transmission companies to provide fire protect around their wood poles.

1. Coordinate with power transmission companies to provide this protection

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- USFDA-Forest service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management

*Target Date: Winter 2004/2005*

*Costs: No Hard Costs.*

**Goal 4: Provide Franklin County Fire District with facility improvements and equipment as identified and improve coverage in areas where facilities and equipment are currently lacking.**

### **Action Items**

- A. Locate scattered satellite buildings, with equipment caches, to provide quicker response near the City of Franklin.
- B. Locate scattered satellite buildings, with equipment caches, to provide quicker response near the City of Dayton.
- C. Locate scattered satellite buildings, with equipment caches, to provide quicker response in Northern Franklin County.
- D. Investigate a joint venture with Caribou County for a fire station in the Thatcher Area

### **Strategies**

- Acquire the Land for each station.
- Construct each satellite station.
- Equip each station with a type 1 structure engine, type 6 brush truck, tanker and EMT unit.
- Volunteers will be needed to staff this unit.
- Develop a list of residents that would be interested in helping set up a volunteer program in their respective areas.

#### **Coordinating Organizations:**

- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- Franklin City/Maple Creek Home Owners
- USDA-Forest Service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management

*Target Date: Spring 2007*

*Costs: Each New Station (Office and class room included): 4500 Sq.Ft. @  
\$31/sq.ft.= \$139,500  
\$350,000 Equipment  
No hard dollar costs for land  
No hard dollar costs for volunteer recruitment.*

**Goal 5: Reduce identified hazardous fuels buildup in high-risk areas on a countywide scale.**

**Action Item**

- A. A specific hazardous fuels assessment, with specific recommendations for mitigation measures, must be conducted in the Franklin County areas described below. Each area identified will have to be assessed by (Landowners, consultants, or Agency Representatives), who are familiar with the area, who can recognize and prioritize the risks, and suggest the correct mitigation required. The type of fuels manipulation that can be incorporated into the areas described might include prescribed fire, thinning and liming, slash piling and burning, chipping, mowing, disking, or spraying depending on the type of fuel.

**Strategies**

- Add a mile or topography divide along entire National Forest boundary for current and future growth identified as areas that are in need of fuels treatment.
- Seek Federal and State grants to fund the fuels assessment.
- Seek grants, or work cooperatively with the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and utility companies to conduct the necessary fuels reduction activities.
- The following is a list of areas within Franklin County that have been identified as being at risk from a wildfire due to hazardous fuels:
  - ❑ **Maple Creek.** From Franklin City to the forest boundary. Hazardous fuels assessment should be conducted in this area of scattered residences.
  - ❑ **Cub River Road.** From Highway 91 to Willow Flat Campgrounds including the Scout Camp, identify specific homes and structures at moderate or high risk and promote defensible space through public education. A hazardous fuels assessment should be conducted in this area of scattered residences.
  - ❑ **Oneida Narrows Area.** Along Hwy 36 from Riverdale to Mink Creek. Identify specific homes and structures at moderate or high risk and promote defensible space through public education. A hazardous fuels assessment should be conducted in this area of scattered residences.
  - ❑ **Cottonwood Creek Area.** Identify specific homes and structures at moderate or high risk and promote defensible space through public education. A hazardous fuels assessment should be conducted in this area of scattered residences.
  - ❑ **Oxford Area. West and East of Westside Highway (D1).** Identify specific homes and structures at moderate or high risk and promote defensible space through public education. A hazardous fuels assessment should be conducted in this area of scattered residences.
  - ❑ **Dayton Area. West of Westside Highway (D1).** Identify specific homes and structures at moderate or high risk and promote defensible space



through public education. A hazardous fuels assessment should be conducted in this area of scattered residences.

- ❑ **Union Pacific RR Lines:** From the Utah border to the Bannock County Line, work with the railroad to promote wildfire hazardous fuels reduction program along the railroad tracks. Assess other railroad property areas of concern regarding hazardous fuels.
- ❑ **Power Lines throughout Franklin County:** Throughout the county, there is a potential for a wildfire ignition related to power lines. An assessment of specific hazardous fuels within the power line corridors must be completed, identifying the areas of greatest risk. Work with the power company to address the appropriate type of fuels reduction required for the specific area.

Coordinating Organizations:

- **USDA- Forest Service**
- **Idaho Department of Lands**
- **Bureau of Land Management**
- **FCFD**
- Home Owners Associations
- Franklin County Assessors Office
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- Idaho Power
- Utah Power
- Union Pacific Railroad

*Target Date: Annually by July or August*

*Costs: No hard dollar cost for assessments  
Hazard reduction costs are unknown pending the assessment  
Estimated costs are \$80,000 annually*

**Goal 6: Create defensible space standards for existing homeowners and developments and utilize standard Fire Protection Guidelines for Residential Development as identified in NFPA 1144, Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire, 2002 edition. Implementation of these standards will be by voluntary compliance and required construction standards for re-roofing structures (see Goal 2)**

### **Action Items**

- A. Implement building codes to address existing fire hazards (e.g., specifying building materials for roofs, siding, access requirements for fire fighting equipment, water supply needs, etc.)

### **Strategies**

- With FCFD as lead, conduct an assessment of current county-adopted building and fire codes, and/or development regulations. (see goal 2)
- Present findings to the Franklin County Planning & Zoning Commission, and develop a strategy for code development and implementation.
- Conduct public meetings to determine level of interest and support from Franklin County citizens relative to code development and adoption.
- In cooperation with the Franklin County Commissioners, develop a plan for adoption and implementation of a countywide building/development upgrades.
- Street name signs that: 1) meet NFPA standards and 2) show the coordinate system.

### **Coordinating Organizations:**

- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- Home Owners Associations
- Franklin County Building Department
- USDA-Forest Service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management

Target Date: Winter 2004/2005

Cost Estimate: Incidental costs: \$2,000  
Annual Costs of \$20,000

- B. Develop and adopt revisions to the building code ordinance that requires all new roofs to be of fire retardant material as required by NFPA.
- C. Provide assistance to residents to convert or cover roofs that are highly susceptible (e.g., shake roofs and old wood siding) to wildland fires.

### **Strategies**

- Identify existing structures that need retrofitting
- Seek grants and other funding sources for fire prevention activities.

#### **Coordinating Organizations:**

- **Franklin County Emergency Services**
- Home Owners Associations
- USDA-Forest Service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management
- FCFD

*Target Date: Annually beginning spring 2006*

*Costs:            Incidental costs: \$2,000*

**Goal 7: Provide Franklin County Fire District personnel with required training, communications, PPE, apparatus, facility improvements and equipment as identified.**

**Action Item**

A. Acquire current NFPA Testing Manuals & Workbooks.

**Strategies**

- Seek Grants and other funding sources

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Emergency Services

*Target Date: Spring 2005*

*Costs: Comprehensive Consensus Codes © Set CD- ROM: \$500*

B. Acquire a second Pumper/Tender truck for Fire Station 1

**Strategies**

- Seek Grants and other funding sources

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- Federal Emergency Management Agency

*Target Date: Spring 2007*

*Costs: One new BLM type engine): \$250,000*

C. Improve County grant writing success

- Train an individual to serve as a County Grant Writer and develop a Grant Resource Library Specific to EMS/Fire.

- 

**Strategies**

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Emergency Services

*Target Date: Spring 2006*

*Costs: Grant Training and Resource Library: Minimal cost as most resources are available free of charge from the Federal Government (see <http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ruralres/funding.htm> #GWR).*

- D. Provide wildland fire training opportunities (including use of computer-based training) to FCFD and interested citizens. Coordinate with USFS/BLM for wildfire training and utilize the BLM and the Fish & Wildlife Rural Fire Assistance program.

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Franklin County Emergency Services

*Target Date: Spring 2006*

*Costs: Wildfire Training CDs (for use on computers purchased above): \$500  
Computer projector: \$2,200 Power Point Software: \$500*

**Goal 8: Gain community or development participation in Firewise activities including education and information distribution.**

**Action Item**

- A. Staff the FCFD with a part time person who would also coordinate and conduct education information training.

**Strategies**

- Enlist community/development participation in Firewise workshops and programs.
- Continue to host fire agency booths or events (e.g., County Fair). Implement events specific to fire prevention (i.e., Fire Prevention Day) to encourage education and cooperation. Schedule educational events at schools and communities prior to and during fire season.
- Use Countywide coordinated cooperative effort with homeowners, FCFD Fire Fighters, Federal and State agencies for adoption and participation in Firewise community activities.
- Through public meetings, mailers and public information campaign, promote implementation of the Firewise Community program in selected areas of the County.
- Solicit input from citizens as to interest in mitigation projects on private properties.
- Identify interested individuals in remote communities or subdivisions that would be willing to lead a grassroots Firewise campaign in their community or neighborhood.
- Pursue funding assistance through sources such as Firewise or National Fire Plan Communities at Risk program, and others to provide prevention and mitigation upgrades to properties at risk
- Solicit input from insurance industry to partner in such projects. Invite insurance company representatives to speak at public meetings to promote prevention and mitigation efforts.
- Provide training to residents in high risk areas on basic wildland firefighting techniques and procedures and basic communication protocols and language to improve interaction and coordination with BLM/FS fire crews
- Have the Cub River homeowners association participate in the Firewise community program (<http://www.firewise.org/communities/>).
- Conduct door-to-door homeowner education programs on wildland fire hazards and mitigation focused primarily on homeowners in hazard zones identified in this

plan. Involve the local civic, service, youth organizations and County or Federal fire crews.

- Involve local civic, service, youth organizations and homeowners to clear a defensible space around selected demonstration homes.
- Increase "Fire Danger" related signage and develop more fire pits for recreational use in recreation areas. Utilize local civic, service and youth organizations to post the signs and construct the pits.

**Coordinating Organizations:**

- **FCFD**
- **Franklin County Commissioners**
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- Home Owners Associations
- USDA-Forest Service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management
- Local Volunteer Organizations

*Target Date: Annual budget appropriation*

*Costs: Part Time Employee for public training: \$25,000 including benefits.  
Possible share position with Franklin County.*

*Incidental costs: \$2,000*

*Coordinator training: \$250*

*Coordinator Travel: \$500*

*Local Workshop Costs: \$500*

*Material Costs: \$500*

*Pit Material Costs: \$500 per pit*

*Sign Costs: \$500 Annually*

*Volunteer time: No hard dollar costs*

**Goal 9: Work with the road agencies to construct vehicle turnouts where needed and install weight limit signs on bridges**

**Action Item**

A. Identify locations where vehicle turnouts and weight limit signs are needed

**Strategies**

- Work with road officials to have turnouts constructed and install weight limit signs on all bridges

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- **Franklin County Road & Bridge Department**
- Home Owners Associations
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- USDA-Forest Service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management

*Target Date: Annually by August 2005*

*Costs: Sign Costs: \$100 each*  
*Costs of turnouts cannot be estimated until locations are identified.*



**Goal 10: Develop a comprehensive inventory of homes and provide the inventory to dispatchers and FCFD in times of emergency response.**

**Action Item**

- A. Locate (using GPS) and document (type of source and reliability) all structures in the County. Annually update the information and provide to organizations and agencies conducting fire suppression operations in the County.

**Strategies**

- Request a grant from the Bureau of Land Management, Upper Snake River District, and US Fish & Wildlife Service to purchase and implement the fire program software in the county.
- Annually update the information and provide to organizations and agencies conducting fire suppression operations in the County.  
(<http://www.fireprograms.com>)

**Coordinating Organizations:**

- **FCFD**
- Home Owners Associations
- Franklin County Assessors Office
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- BLM
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Local Volunteer Organizations

*Target Date: Annually by May or June (See Goals 1 & 2)*

*Costs: Red Zone fire programs Software, Digital Camera, and PDA's & GPS:  
grants - \$5,000  
Volunteer time: No hard dollar costs*

**Goal 11: Apply fuels treatment - hand, mechanical, prescribed fire or combination of treatments to reduce fuels loads on CRP land.**

**Action Item**

- A. Develop a hazardous fuels reduction plan for perimeters of CRP fields or around buildings to create firebreaks that will reduce the potential threat from a wildfire. Elements of this plan should include:

**Strategies**

- Work with State and Federal government agencies to develop site-specific guidelines for grazing, mechanical treatment or burning of CRP lands that are keyed to elevation, climatic, or grass disturbance indicators (to replace broad, countywide dates and rules) and that provide for fuel load reductions or fire barrier construction on CRP land while still meeting the intent or objective of the CRP set aside.
- Work with State and Federal government agencies to accept and encourage the use grass species that are more fire resistant or produce less dry fuel than common crested wheat grass (e.g. Alfalfa and Greenar wheat grass).
- Work with State and Federal government agencies to permit placement of wildland fire barriers in very large tracts of CRP to limit total fire size.
- Develop defensible space fire barriers around single and multiple house sites, and farm/business sites surrounded by CRP lands.
- Coordinated management of CRP land with noxious weed and noxious insect control measures.

**Coordinating Organizations:**

- **Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)**
- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Idaho Department of Fish & Game
- Bureau of Land Management USDA-Forest Service
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)

*Target Date: Spring 2006 for site-specific guidelines  
Annually as per guidelines for fuels reduction*

*Costs: No hard dollar costs*

## **5. Wildfire Mitigation Plan Maintenance**

This plan maintenance will be directed by the Franklin County Commissioners, and coordinated with the Franklin County Disaster Services Specialist and the Franklin County Fire District. In addition, participation will be needed by various positions represented in the Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Group, coupled with public input.

Proposed mitigation plan maintenance will be an annual plan review, bi-annual re-evaluation of priorities for action items and progress, with a total review every five years. Annual review of the mitigation recommendations will be necessary as various projects or tasks are accomplished and areas at-risk decline. Annual review will also be needed as County infrastructure needs change or are met and should include representation of stakeholders who participated in the development of the plan being reviewed. The inclusions of Federal and State Land managers will assist in the initiation of planning procedures for identified mitigation projects and to update or modify mitigation actions or recommendations.

A total plan review every 5 years (2009, 2013, etc.) is recommended as Franklin County infrastructure needs change, specifically: population increases, fuel reduction projects are completed, emergency services are provided in outlying areas, and computer support needs are met or increased and areas of extreme wildfire hazard decline or increase.

### ***5.1 Continued public involvement***

The continued involvement of the public for the Franklin County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan is needed to accomplish many of the recommendations.

Establishment of Emergency Action Plans for land developments and communities will require continued involvement. FCFD needs to provide input to the plan and feedback to the Fire Commissioners, County Commissioners, and municipalities. Continued involvement by the FCFD, Sheriff, Commissioners, stakeholders, cooperators, land managers, and citizens will occur as mitigation actions are addressed and the plan is reviewed.

Copies of the plan will be available at the FCFD and County Court House. Annual review and mitigation priority assessment by FCFD Commissions, Sheriff, and Disaster Services will provide information to and create involvement by numerous residents of Franklin County.

## 6. Conclusion:

Wildland fires are a part of the natural ecological cycle of forest ecosystems. However, as humans encroachment on these forests can result in catastrophic disaster, as was seen in 2003 when 3,000 homes were destroyed by wildland fires. The National Fire Plan calls for reducing this risk through a variety of measures including the creation of local wildland urban interface fire mitigation plans. The Franklin County Fire District (FCFD) received a grant to prepare a Wildland Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan (WUIFMP) to identify actions and priorities for reducing wildland fire risk.

The stated plan is the culmination of over four months of intensive work conducted by the FCFD Wildland Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Planning Committee and their consultant. The plan includes a variety of measures designed to reduce the impact of wildland fires.

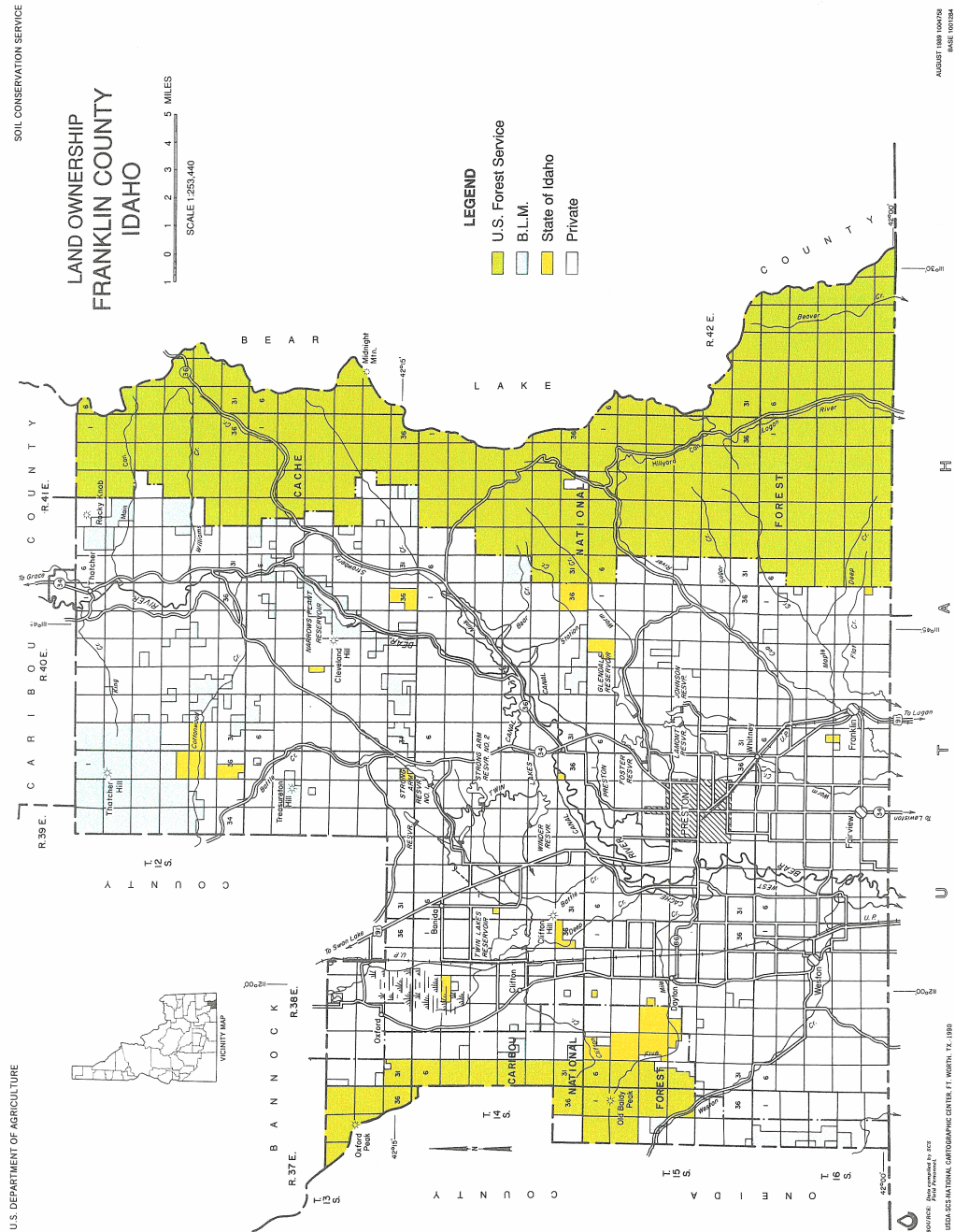
Goals and actions needed to implement this plan are listed with suggestions for who should complete the action, when it should be completed and the possible resources for completing the action. The plan also states how and when it is to be updated. These sections are then followed by technical information and references.

No plan is complete until it is implemented. This document describes what actions need to take place over the next several years to help reduce the damages caused by wildfire in the wildland urban interface. Proposed mitigation plan maintenance will be biennial, with a total review every four years. Biennial review of the mitigation recommendations will be necessary as various projects or tasks are accomplished and areas at-risk decline. However, it is up to the community to ensure that these actions are taken.

## Appendix A: Maps

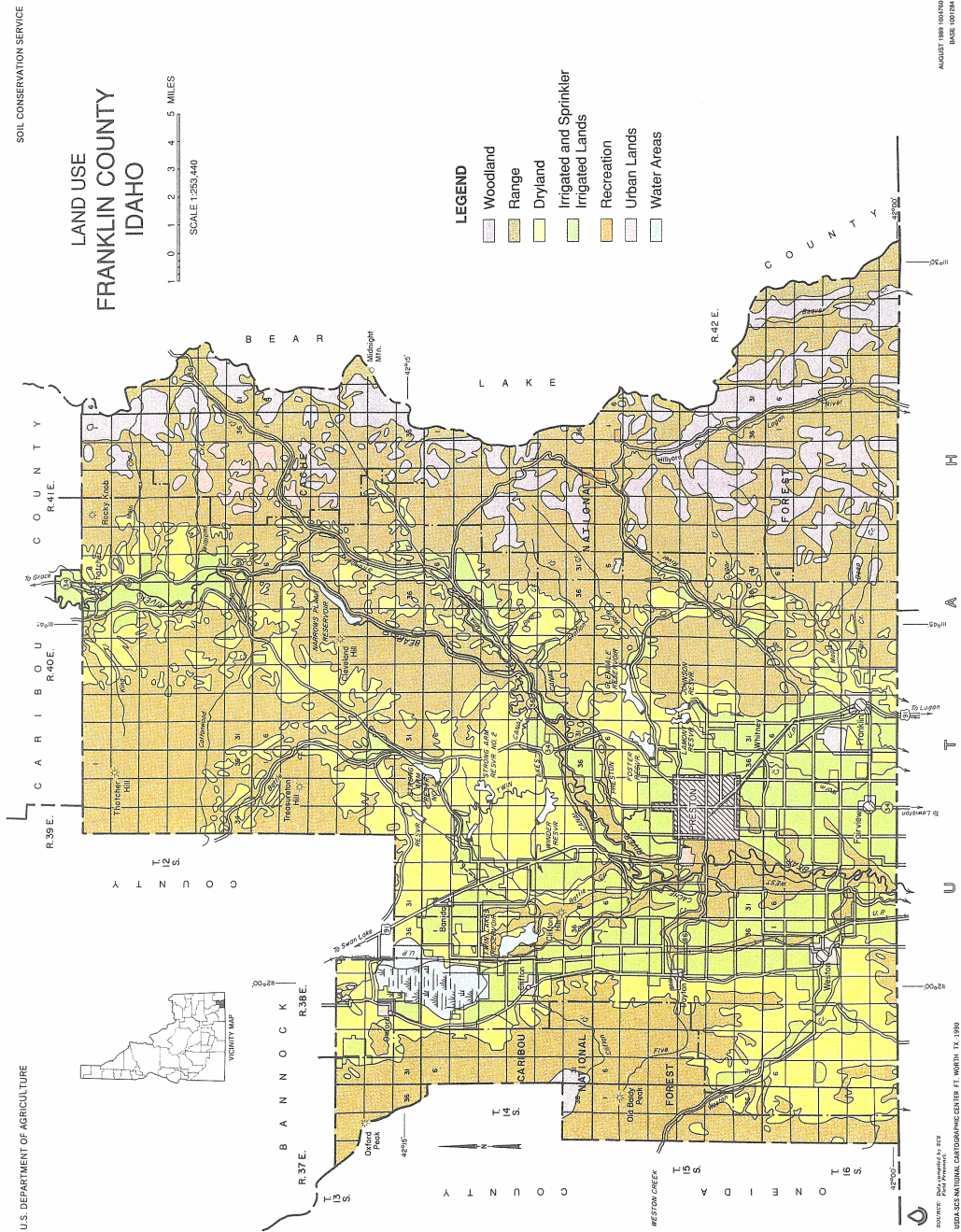


## Appendix A: Maps





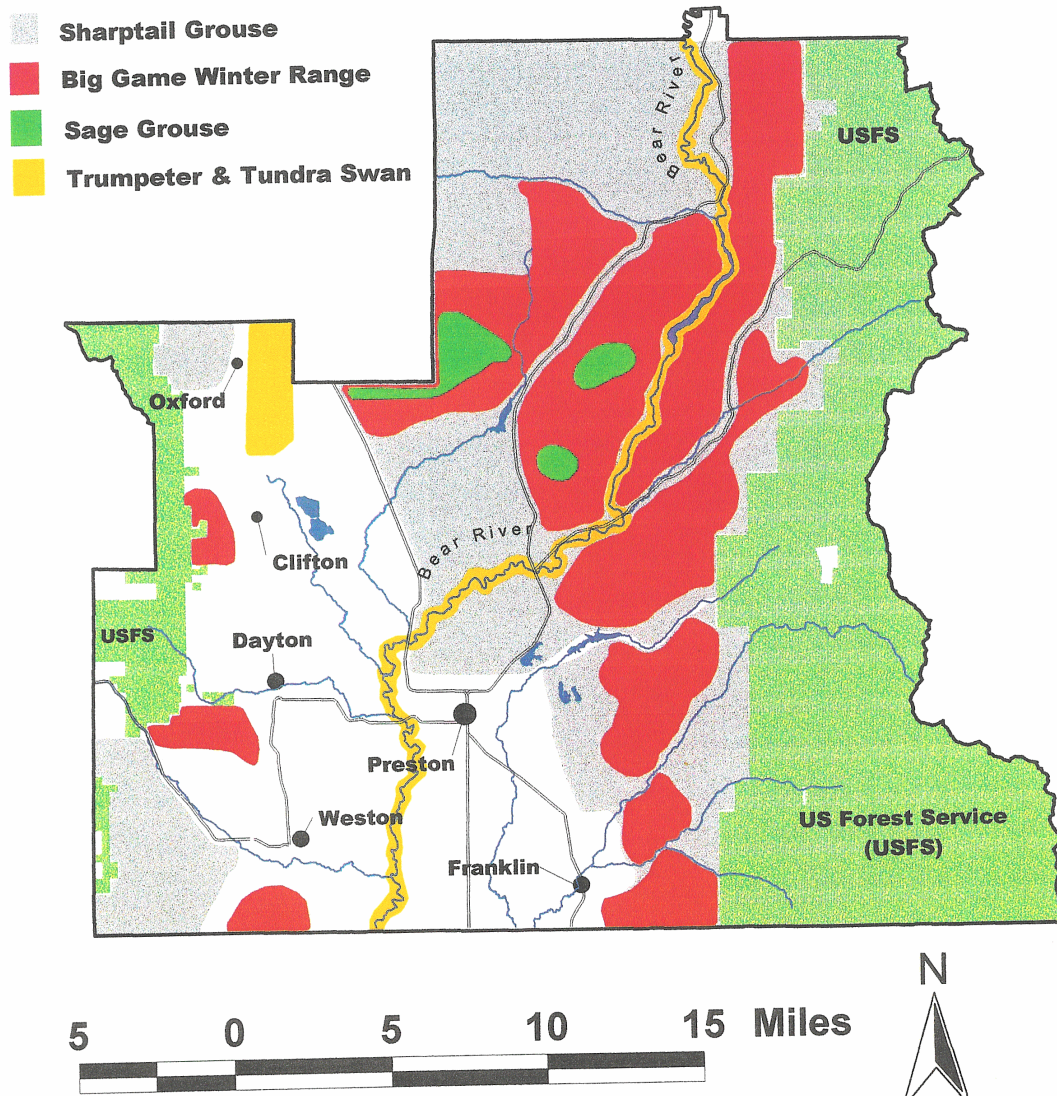
## Appendix A: Maps



## Appendix A: Maps

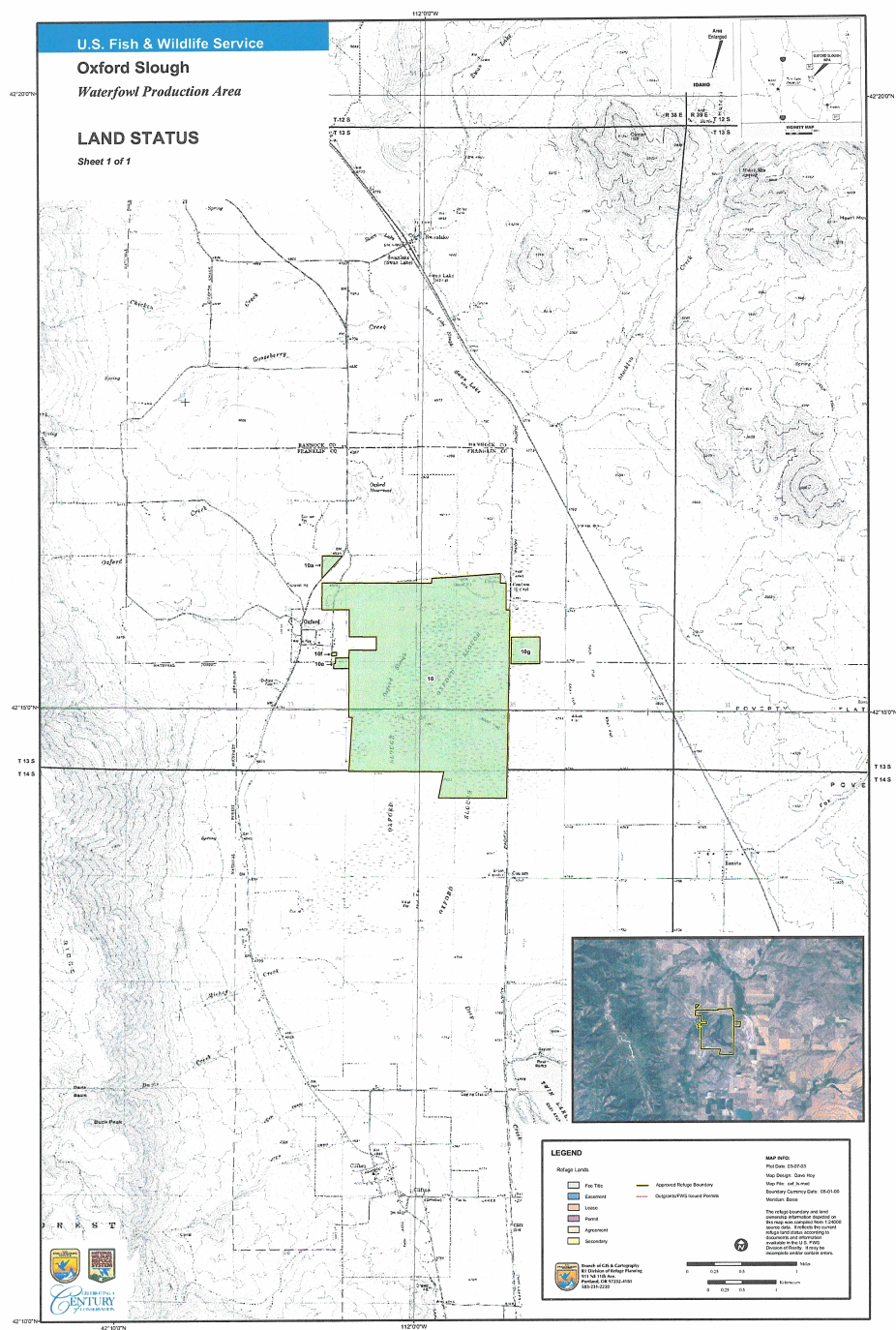
# Franklin County Wildlife Map

(Non U.S. Forest Service Lands)



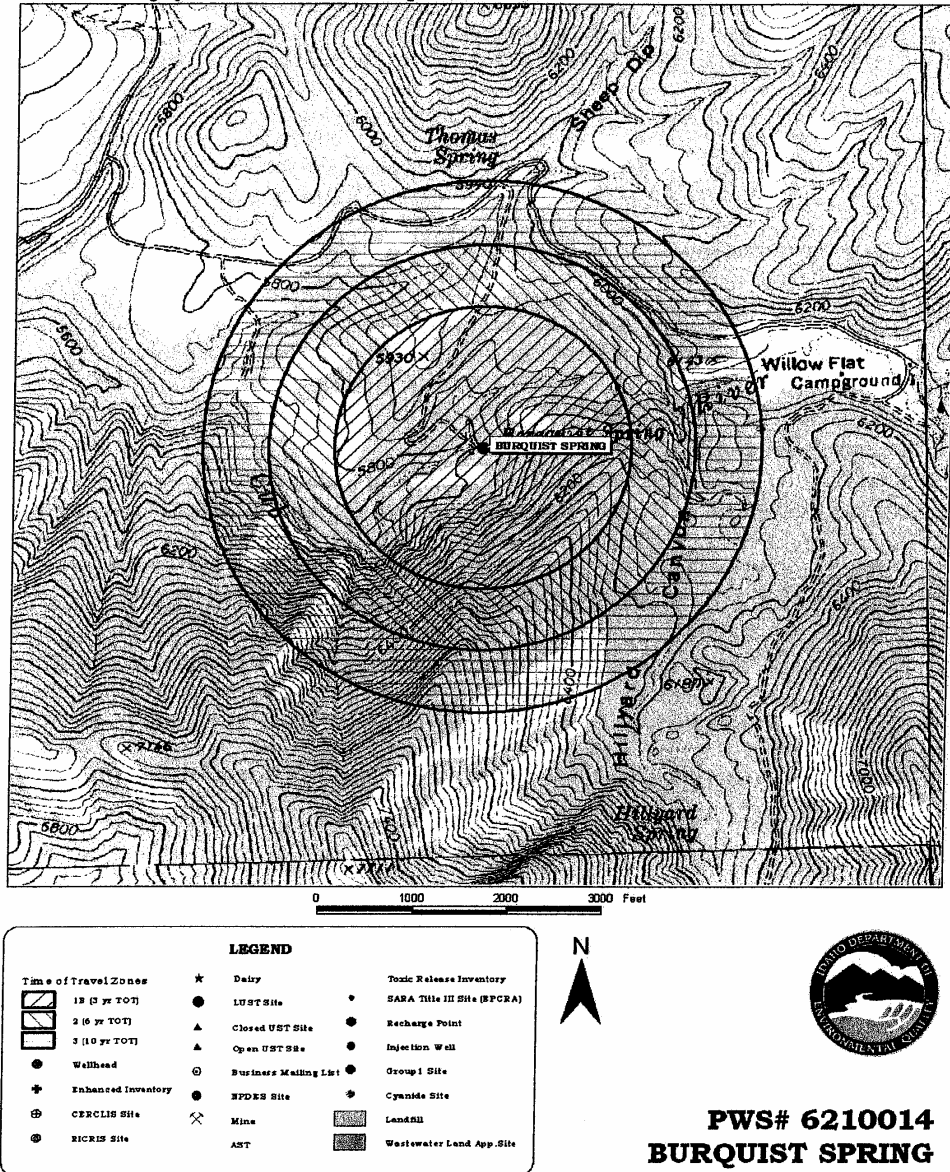


## Appendix A: Maps



## Appendix A: Maps

**FIGURE 2. City of Preston Delineation Map and Potential Contaminant Source Locations**



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***Appendix B: Meetings and Public Outreach - Minutes & Handout***

**Franklin County - Fire Mitigation Plan**

**Committee Meeting  
Minutes  
July 7, 2004**

**Attendees:** Darrell Wilburn, Consultant; Scott Martin, Preston's Director of Public Works/Fire Marshall; Elliot Larsen, County Clerk; Alan Carter, County Commissioner; Don Beckstead, County Sheriff; Warren Wilde, Franklin County Emergency Services; Jared Mattson, USFS; Lance R. Brady, BLM; Kevin Conran, BLM; Kim Crockett, FCFD Commissioner; Mike Lower, Fire Chief.

Meeting was begun at 4:00 p.m. The consultant Wilburn explained that this meeting was to orient the various agencies of Franklin County Fire District's intent to prepare a fire plan to mitigate urban and wildland interface fires, develop a committee to review the progress of the plans development, identify agencies that need to be involved and/or advised and establish future meeting dates.

BLM representative Kevin Conran gave an overview of the process, updates to the requirements of the plan, and organizational/data gathering ideas.

BLM representative Brady discussed GPS/GIS data available.

USFS representative Mattson discussed current fuel reduction programs in the area.

It was decided that Idaho Department of Lands needed to be involved in each meeting. Keith Birch of that agency will be contacted by the consultant and/or fire chief Lower.

A meeting for the purpose of Problem Identification and public input was set for July 21. The committee will meet at 4:00 p.m. with public being invited from 5:00 to 7:00. FCFD meeting will follow thereby allowing input from each fireman who was not in attendance earlier. Commissioner Crockett will place the advertisement in the local paper.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40.

# Franklin County - Fire Mitigation Plan

## Committee Meeting Minutes - Problem Identification and public input July 21, 2004

**Attendees:** Darrell Wilburn, Consultant; Alan Carter, County Commissioner; Warren Wilde, Franklin County Emergency Services; Jared Mattson, USFS; Lance R. Brady, BLM; Kevin Conran, BLM; Kim Crockett, FCFD Commissioner; Mike Lower, Fire Chief.

Meeting was begun at 4:00 p.m. The consultant Wilburn explained that this meeting was to use a county map to identify areas of high and moderate risk.

Consultant distributed, drafts of questionnaire and handouts to be used to collect citizen input.

Input was taken from the public as well as the FCFD members, and Emergency Services.

Jared Mattson announced that there were no scheduled fuels reductions in Franklin County this year.

Lance Brady provided maps showing the fire history and vegetation in the county.

A meeting for the review of hazards map was set for Aug 4. The committee will meet at 4:00 p.m. FCFD meeting will follow thereby allowing input from each fireman who was not in attendance earlier.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

# Franklin County - Fire Mitigation Plan

## Committee Meeting Minutes - Hazards map & Risk Identification Aug 4, 2004

**Attendees:** Darrell Wilburn, Consultant; Alan Carter, County Commissioner; Warren Wilde, Franklin County Emergency Services; Lance R. Brady, BLM; Kevin Conran, BLM; Kim Crockett, FCFD Commissioner; Scott Martin, Preston's Director of Public Works/Fire Marshall, and Rebecca Phelps, US Forest.

Meeting was begun at 4:00 p.m. The consultant Wilburn explained that this meeting was to use review the map created at the last meeting showing the areas of high and moderate risk.

Lance Brady provided map showing the areas of high and moderate risk created at the last meeting.

State and federal representatives had to leave early to attend another meeting.

The committee identified goals to mitigate the areas of risk.

A meeting for the review of hazards & goals was set for Aug 18. The committee will meet at 4:00 p.m. FCFD meeting will follow thereby allowing input from each fireman who was not in attendance earlier.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

# Franklin County - Fire Mitigation Plan

## Committee Meeting Minutes - Hazards map & Risk Identification Aug 18, 2004

**Attendees:** Darrell Wilburn, Consultant; Warren Wilde, Franklin County Emergency Services; Kevin Conran, BLM; Kim Crockett, FCFD Commissioner; Mike Lower, Fire Chief.

Meeting was begun at 4:00 p.m. Previous meeting minutes were reviewed with corrections noted.

The consultant Wilburn explained that this meeting was to review goals of mitigating high and moderate risk hazards, based on the previous meetings discussion

Committee members were excused: Lance R. Brady, BLM was working on a fire in Washington and Alan Carter, County Commissioner as attending to family business.

The committee agreed on the goals and priorities presented with some additional ideas.

A meeting for the review of goals and action items to mitigate those goals by the public and the committee was set for Sept 1. The committee will meet at 4:00 p.m. FCFD meeting will follow thereby allowing input from each fireman who was not in attendance earlier.

Committee Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. Fireman's input meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

# Franklin County - Fire Mitigation Plan

## Committee Meeting Minutes - Mitigation Strategy and Implementation Sept 1, 2004

**Attendees:** Darrell Wilburn, Consultant; Alan Carter, County Commissioner, Warren Wilder, Franklin County Emergency Services; Kevin Conran, BLM; Kim Crockett, FCFD Commissioner; Mike Lower, Fire Chief, and Jared Matsen, USFS, Elliot Larsen, County Clerk, Scott Martin, Preston's Director of Public Works/Fire Marshall

Meeting was begun at 4:00 p.m.

The consultant Wilburn explained that this meeting was to review "**Mitigation Strategy and Implementation**", based on the previous meetings discussion

Upon review of the handout material, the committee agreed on the following changes:

Action Items, under Goals 1, 2 & 6 would include coordinate type intersection signing in addition to the existing street names in the county. Street names signs to meet NFPA standards

Goal 4, Add "investigate a joint venture fire station with Caribou County in the Thatcher Area. Note land costs in the cost estimates.

Goal 5, should read "Oxford Area, East & West the West Side Highway (D1)"  
Action Item B, add Ordinance for new roofs to be fire retardant, per NFPA standards.

Add additional Goal and/or action Item: Review all existing MOU's and convert the verbal ones to writing thereby being able to be reviewed in the future.

Investigate current status of making fire breaks on CRP lands.

A meeting for the review of Draft Plan by the committee was set for Sept 15. The committee will meet at 4:00 p.m.

Committee Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. Fireman's input meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

# Franklin County - Fire Mitigation Plan

## Committee Meeting Draft Report Review September 15, 2004

**Attendees:** Darrell Wilburn, Consultant; Warren Wilde, Franklin County Emergency Services; Kevin Conran, BLM; Don Gosswiller, BLM, Mike Lower, Fire Chief, Lance Roberts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Scott Martin, Preston's Director of Public Works/Fire Marshall

Meeting was begun at 4:00 p.m. The consultant Wilburn explained that this meeting was to use review the draft of the Mitigation Plan.

Immediate comments were given to the consultant and additional comments will come in the form of emails.

Lance Roberts discussed the efforts of fish & wildlife service in fire prevention at the oxford slough.

This was the final meeting of the committee. FCFD meeting will follow thereby allowing input from each fireman who was not in attendance earlier.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Thanks everyone for your commitment and hard work to make this a great plan for Franklin County.



## football camp to start July 28

Preston Indian freshman boys ninth grade football camp is scheduled for July 28, 29 and 30.

Meet at the practice field at 5:30 p.m. The workout will go until 7 p.m.

The boys are asked to bring football shoes, shorts and a shirt for the workout.

"We want everyone to have fun and learn some football fundamentals," said Lynn Smith.

There is no charge for the workout.

If there are any questions concerning the camp contact Lynn Smith at 425 3945.



With the birth of K'Lee Burbank, we have five generations. K'Lee Burbank front row middle with her father, T.J. Burbank, on the left. On the right is Great-Great-Grandmother Blanche C. Hull. Standing in the back on the left is Grandmother Cindy Burbank and to the right is Great-Grandmother Teddy Elwell.

**Books**  
ble at the  
and the Library.  
our name added to  
mailing list please call  
ak 747-3086

## PUBLIC MEETING

July 21 - 5:00 to 7:00pm

55 West 1st South, Preston

**"Franklin County Fire Plan"**

**"Problem Identification"**

SPONSORED BY FRANKLIN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT

## Own This Jacket!!

With \$100 Donation  
to the  
Oneida Stake Academy  
Restoration Fund

These classy jackets, embroidered with the artist's rendition of the restored academy in Benson Park, are available through West Motor for a \$100 donation to the project. The sage-green jackets come in all sizes, and can be specially ordered.

For more information, contact  
Doug West at 208-852-1337.

## Oneida Stake Academy Benefit Garage Sale

Saturday,  
July 31 • 8am-Noon  
437 N. State

## Plan to Attend Plan to Donate

To Donate Items  
Call Joyce  
at 852-1824

age 1)

of a new facility." Inpatient wing "C" was red in better shape than the Nursing Home area by architects. However, poor lighting, inadequate power, gas deficiencies and size were noted. "Space for visitors, family members and caregivers is less than ideal," the report notes. "Relocating these rooms to meet standards would require removal of some rooms (per other room) to meet size and restroom changes, if possible at all." Architects called the nursing station, staff break room/report area and storage spaces "all grossly sized. The ICU/High room is too small, has too few outlets, therefore used for storage. The room is also inefficient," it is noted. The labor room is good but lacking in power and gases especially for the use of the procedure room for a labor as also made it so with OR a conflict between and an emergency C could arise." CT room was called a mall, while that including administration, added only a few years "a completely wood and thus could not be rated into a hospital." Recommendations to bring mechanical system into one, total about \$1.4 million. Electrical upgrades would cost over \$500,000. Thus emphasized that aware of the conditions, it is worthwhile to a complete, written outlining the situation.

## Wilburn explains fire plan

By ROBERT MERRILL  
Assistant editor

A final draft report on a county-wide fire mitigation plan was given to Franklin County Commissioners Monday during a short meeting.

Preston City Engineer Darrell Wilburn, who is assisting the Franklin County Fire District in the project, told county officials fire mitigation throughout Idaho started last year after the disastrous wildfires in California burned over 3,000 homes.

"Every county in the state of Idaho is involved in the fire mitigation — planning process, which means coming up with ways to reduce the potential for fire loss to houses and wildlands," he said.

"We have identified in our local planning process areas of the county that are at high risk for fire. We call these areas-of-urban interface, which means houses that are constructed adjacent to and in forest lands," he said.

Wilburn told the commission the Maple Creek, Cub River (including Willow Flats and the Hull Valley Boy Scout Camp), Cottonwood Creek, Oneida Narrows, Dayton and Oxford areas have been identified as fitting the description of urban interface.

He said the Cub River area is probably the most fire prone of any in the county.

Wilburn said the report needs to be reviewed and approved by the Franklin County Commission by Sept. 27 and has to be submitted to the BLM by the end of this month. The fire district received a \$40,000 grant through the BLM to help fund the study and the report.

Officials have determined areas of moderate risk include Glendale, Oxford, Maple Grove Hot Springs and Mink Creek.

Wilburn said low-risk areas would include Preston, Franklin and other low-lying portions of the county.

"High-risk areas are designated as such because of a lack of water, propane tanks, fuels and roads," said Fire Chief Mike Lower.

Wilburn said a county-wide map needs to be developed notating the urban-interface locations.

"This will help federal and local agencies in developing projects for fuel reduction to lessen the threat of fire damage to structures," he said. "The fire district needs to identify areas with no easy availability to water and develop ways to solve this problem. We need to work with homeowner's associations throughout the county on this."

"As part of the overall project, the county's planning and zoning commission needs to change existing codes and develop new ones to help in the mitigation process."

Wilburn said because the report will be very specific to the fire district, the county and incorporated communities will be in a much better position to obtain federal and state grants related to fire protection once the study is finally accepted by the BLM.

In other action, the commission:

- discussed winter-time road maintenance on the Oxford Loop Road west of Oxford. Lorenzo Griffith is proposing a boy's ranch in the area. The commission noted a building has been constructed without a building permit, plumbing and electrical inspections and no state septic system permit.

County attorney Jay McKenzie emphasized to residents that a 1998 law requires building permits before construction starts. People who violate

this law can be charged with a misdemeanor and are subject to a variety of other fines.

- approved an Eagle Scout project requested by Skyler Ostler, who plans to erect signs on East Oneida and 2200 East explaining the early history of the area.

- reviewed a rough draft of a War Memorial sketch and indicated it will be forwarded to an architect for a final design and cost estimates. The commission early this summer proposed constructing a memorial that honors all county residents who have served in the armed forces. The plan calls for a memorial incorporating service on the land, sea and air.

- approved installation of three signs in the Cub River area notifying ATV riders that the road leading from the Albert Moser Campground to Willow Flat and the Hull Valley Scout Camp are on the county road map. Any ATV used on these roads must be licensed and have liability insurance.

### ■ DUP News

*DUP information should be submitted by Friday at noon the week before the third Wednesday of the month.*

A general overview of the lesson will be given and each camp may share the unique details of their meeting, such as where it was held, who attended, what was served, who participated in giving the lesson, pledge, thought, history, artifact, etc.



Ellen Eccles Theatre Presents

**Linda Tillerv**

**Progressive Wireless**

**verizon** wireless  
Service Provider



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## Community Questionnaire for Wildfire Hazard and Fire Safe Education Programs Franklin County, Idaho

To reduce the risk of wildfires, the Franklin County Fire District is initiating a county-wide Wildfire Mitigation Plan. The plan seeks to reduce the threat of wildfire through risk assessment and hazard identification. Mitigation measures will include but are not limited to wildfire prevention, reduction of fuels, increasing fire protection capabilities of communities, and public education. The goal of the program is to decrease the chances of wildfire spreading from public lands onto private or community lands and vice-versa. This questionnaire is being conducted on behalf of the Franklin County Fire District, by Darrell Wilburn (RR 1, Box 46, Darlington, ID 83255).

You may mail this questionnaire to the address provided; or you may drop it off at the Franklin County Fire District, 55 West Oneida Street, Preston; or take it to your local fire department.

Please help this county-wide effort by providing information and suggestions on potential assessment and mitigation efforts.

Fold on dotted lines, staple or tape, and apply stamp.

Darrell Wilburn  
4001 N 3700 W  
Darlington, ID 83255

Place  
Stamp  
Here

DARRELL WILBURN  
FRANKLIN COUNTY WILDLAND FIRE MITIGATION PLAN  
RR 1 BOX 46  
DARLINGTON, ID 83255

8. What town or community do you live in, or closest to? \_\_\_\_\_

9. How great a risk do you think wildfires pose to your residence? (Please circle one response.)

NONE      SLIGHT      MODERATELY HIGH      HIGH      VERY HIGH

10. a) If a fire destroyed your property, what would be the replacement cost? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

b) Would your insurance cover all of this fire loss? YES ☐ NO ☐

11. What areas around your community do you think are extreme fire hazards?

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12. What do you think might be the best way to reduce (mitigate), these hazards? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Do you know of any recent actions or education programs taken by your community, the county, etc., to reduce the risk of wildland fires or to protect residents from wildfires spreading from public land to private?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If "yes", what was the nature of the action or program(s)?

---

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Who sponsored it, and when? \_\_\_\_\_

---

14. Besides residences and community buildings, please list other locations or properties (may or may not be a structure) that have high environmental, cultural, or economic value that you feel should be a priority for fire risk reduction. \_\_\_\_\_

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15. Do you think your community is adequately prepared to combat wildland fires? YES ☐ NO ☐

If you answered "no", what do you think could be done to improve your town's/subdivision's firefighting capabilities?

---

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If we have questions to follow up on your survey responses, may we contact you?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your time and your ideas!**



## **Franklin County Fire District**

*55 West 1st South Street  
Preston, Idaho 83263*

**208-852-1234 OR 911**

*"We make house calls."*



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## How to Survive a Wildfire

### **1 Create "defensible space"**

**around your home.** Sweep the roof clear of debris; cut away branches hanging over the house; stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from structures.

**2 Make an escape plan.** Map a route from the house to a safe place, and discuss with the family what should be done if fire looms.

**3 Have an animal evacuation plan.** People often die in fires searching for pets. Have a plan ready for beloved critters.

### **4 Make an "Important stuff" list.**

Create a list of items to bring along in an evacuation. The biggest regret of fire victims? They didn't grab photos and scrapbooks.

### **5 Don't wait – evacuate!**

Immediately evacuate the area when advised by police or fire personnel. In remote areas, don't wait for notification: It's up to you.

### **6 Establish a safety zone.**

If escape routes are cut off by fire, find a place to which you can retreat that won't burn--a large parking lot, for example.

### **7 Involve the community.**

Neighborhood groups can work with fire officials to develop fire-safety programs.

**8 Mark it.** To assist emergency workers, streets and homes should be clearly marked.

### **9 Develop a water supply.**

Wells, streams and swimming pools can be used to help protect homes from fire.

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## ***Appendix D: Cost Comparison***

### **A. Cost Comparison Analysis**

Values at risk to wildfire in Franklin County includes privately owned homes and property, County assets (buildings, communication sites, road/highway stabilization or repair), soil stability concerns, critical wildlife winter ranges, recreational activities and tourism, and the safety of residents, visitors, and fire fighters in the fuel types, conditions and rugged terrain of Franklin County. The county currently has over 3,700 homes and other property valued at more than \$244 million.

Of the homes within the County over 380 of them are located in areas with high risk and 165 homes are located in areas of moderate risk to wildfires. Hazardous fuel reduction and increased wildfire emergency services can mitigate risk to life and property in Franklin County.

A sample of Franklin County residential homes taken from numerous different locations at high wildfire risk within the County yielded an averaged assessed value of \$160,000 per residence and property. Fifteen percent of this average was added for personal property in the homes. This provided the total average value of \$184,000 per residence and property. Using this average value total estimated value of Franklin County homes at high wildfire risk is \$69,920,000. Add to this the value of county assets including: churches, public water systems, recreational sites, historical sites, county structures, communication sites; the estimated total value of assets at risk to wildfire is over \$200,000,000. This total does not include the value of timber resources, or expense in protection of watersheds, and vegetation rehabilitation or soil erosion control efforts after a wildfire.

### **Mitigation Recommendation Costs, Franklin County**

Goal 5 & 6: Estimated costs for wildfire mitigation by hazardous fuel reduction within Franklin County are \$100,000 for high hazard areas on private developed lands and public lands.

Goal 4 & 7: FCFD identified priorities such as: Additional Fire Stations, additional training, PPE, equipment and engines, brush trucks and water tenders, cost estimates \$1,960,000

Goal 8: Education personnel for mitigation of wildfires through fire prevention education programs, coordination and training. Estimated Cost \$50,000 per year.

Goals 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11: These mitigation measures have an estimated cost of over \$24,000

### **Benefit to Costs**

The total cost of the mitigation goals listed has an initial cost of at least \$2.134 million. That cost is to protect at least \$200 million in property values. The benefit to costs has a ratio of about 94 to 1.

## B. BENEFITS OF MITIGATION

Stakeholders evaluating the economic benefits of mitigation should consider numerous "direct" scenarios, including, but not limited to avoiding:

- Building/property damages
- Content damages
- Inventory damages
- Rental income losses
- Relocation and disruption expenses
- Proprietor's income losses

Some of "indirect" effects to consider, (positive or negative) include changes to the following:

- .Commodity and resource prices
- Availability of resource supplies
- Building and land values
- Capital availability and interest rates
- Availability of labor
- Economic structure
- Infrastructure
- Local, State, and Federal regulations and policies
- Insurance availability and rates

Total economic impacts are the sum of direct and indirect economic impacts. Decision makers should understand the total economic impacts of natural disasters in order to calculate the benefits of a mitigation activity.

Additionally, it must be realized that benefit/cost analysis, when used alone, may divert attention from other important issues. It is important to consider the qualitative factors of a project associated with mitigation that cannot be evaluated economically. There are alternatives. Many communities and developments are considering developing multi- objective projects, including: integration of natural hazard mitigation with projects related to watersheds, wildfire protection, environmental planning, community economic development, and small business development.



## ***Appendix E: Financial/Technical Resources***

### **FINANCIAL/TECHNICAL RESOURCES**

Financial resources that can provide support for various wildland fire mitigation action items included various State and Federal grants administered through Idaho Department of Lands, the Bureau of Land Management, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Hazardous fuels reduction grants for Franklin County can be a combination of sources for the County and applied for through Idaho Department of Lands. Grant administration costs should always be included in grant requests.

FCFD grant applications can be provided to the BLM for Rural Fire Assistance and the FEMA grant program. Grant application should be based upon countywide priorities, thereby improving the success of FCFD as grant recipients.

Numerous technical resources are available for wildfire mitigation. Internet home pages of Idaho Department of Lands, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, NFPA, and FEMA can be accessed for additional information.

### **Wildfire Technical Resources**

Idaho Department of Lands  
Website: [www2.state.id.us/lands](http://www2.state.id.us/lands)

Federal Wildland Fire Policy, Wildland/Urban Interface Protection Federal report describing areas that need improvement nationally.  
Website: [www.fs.fed.us/land/wildfire](http://www.fs.fed.us/land/wildfire)

Bureau of Land Management, National Fire Plan, and links  
Website: [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)

FEMA assistance to local fire departments  
Website: [www.usfa.fema.gov/grants](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants)

U.S. Forest Service Fire Sciences Laboratory  
Website: [www.firelab.org](http://www.firelab.org)

National Academy of Public Administration, Wildfire Suppression: Utilizing Local Firefighting Forces.  
Website: [www.naQawash.org](http://www.naQawash.org)

## ***Appendix F: Reference Resources***

### **REFERENCES**

FEMA region 10, 201.6 Local Mitigation Plans, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Determination.

Idaho Department of Lands document: Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program.

Idaho Department of Lands document: Multi-Resource Stewardship Program.

Interagency Fire Education Initiative, resource Management Education Unit, 2001  
<http://fire.nifc.nps.gov/flre/ecology/docs/ecplinit.html>.

Guidance to Idaho's Counties and Agencies From the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group, June 18, 2004

Wildfire Suppression: Strategies For Containing Costs, September 2002 National Academy of Public Administration

Utilizing Local Firefighting Forces . December 2003: National Academy of Public Administration

Establishing Fire Prevention Education Cooperative Programs and Partnerships, October 1999, National Wildfire Coordinating Group

NFPA 1144 Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire 2002 Edition

State of Idaho Strategy for Implementation of the National Fire Plan, July 2002

Danger: Flames Ahead!, Parade, June 27, 2004, pg 4.

Kootenai County Wildland Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan, 2002

Teton County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan, April 2004

Power County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan, February 2004

Franklin County Comprehensive Plan

Franklin County Subdivision Ordinance

Franklin County Building Ordinance

Franklin County Manufactured Home and Manufactured home Park Ordinance

Franklin County Rural Address System

**Appendix F:**  
**NFPA 1144, Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire 2002 Edition**

**NFPA 1144 Standard for Protection of Life and Property from  
Wildfire 2002 Edition**

Definitions:

**3.3.6 Defensible Space:** An area defined by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) (Typically a width of 30 feet or more) between an improved property and a potential wildfire where combustible materials and vegetation have been removed or modified to reduce the potential for fire on improved property spreading to wildland fuels or to provide a safe working area for firefighters protecting life and improved property from wildland fire.

**3.3.7 Dry Hydrant:** An arrangement of pipe permanently connected to a water source other than a piped, pressurized water supply system that provides a ready means of water supply for firefighting purposes and that utilizes the drafting (suction) capability of fire department pumps.

**3.3.10 Fire Hazard:** A fuel complex, defined by kind, arrangement, volume, condition, and location that determines the ease of ignition and/or resistance to fire control.

**3.3.12 Fire Resistant Construction:** Construction designed to offer reasonable protection against fire.

**3.3.13 Fuel Modification:** Any manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition or the resistance to fire control.

**3.3.14 Fuels:** All combustible materials within the wildland urban interface or intermix, including but not limited to vegetation and structures.

**3.3.15 Ground fuels:** All combustible materials such as grass, duff, loose surface litter, tree or shrub roots, rotting wood. Leaves, peat or sawdust that typically support combustion.

**3.3.17 Mitigation:** Action that moderates the severity of a fire hazard or risk.

**3.3.18 Noncombustible:** Any material that, in the form in which it is used and under the conditions anticipated, will not ignite and burn nor will add appreciable heat to an ambient fire.

**3.3.20 Risk:** The chance of a fire starting from any cause.

**3.3.21 Road:** Any accessway, not including a driveway, that gives access to more than one parcel and is primarily intended for vehicular access.

**3.3.23 Structure:** That which is built or constructed.

**3.3.24 Turnaround:** A portion of a roadway, unobstructed by parking, that allows for a safe reversal of direction for emergency equipment.

**3.3.26 Water Supply:** A source of water for firefighting activities.

**3.3.27 Wildland Fire:** An unplanned and uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels, at times involving structures.

**3.3.28 Wildland Urban Interface:** An area where improved property and wildland fuels meet at a well defined boundary.

**3.3.29 Wildland Urban Intermix:** An area where improved property and wildland fuels meet with no clearly defined boundary.

Pertinent Standards:

**5.1.2** Roads shall be designed and constructed to allow evacuation simultaneously with emergency response operations.

**5.1.5** Roads shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to accommodate the load and turning radius of the largest apparatus typically used to respond to that location.

**5.1.7** Dead end roads in excess of 91.4 m (300 feet) in length shall be provided with turnouts and turnarounds as approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

**5.3.1** Any bridge on a road or required driveway shall be designed to accommodate the load of the largest apparatus typically used to respond to that location.

**5.3.2** The load limit shall be clearly posted at the approaches to the bridge.

**5.6.1** Roads, fire service access, dwellings, and commercial structures shall be identified by a consistent identification system that provides for sequenced or patterned numbering and non-duplicated naming within each jurisdiction.

**5.6.1.2** All letters, numbers and symbols shall be a minimum of 102 mm (4 in.) in height, with a 12.7 mm (1/2 in.) stroke, and shall be reflectorized and contrasting with the background color of the sign.

**5.6.1.4** Street and road name signs and supporting structures shall be of noncombustible materials.

**8.2.1** The requirements for roof covering assemblies shall be as follows:

1) Only roof covering assemblies rated class A, B, or C shall be used.

2) The specific class shall be consistent with the wildland fire risk and hazard severity assessment as determined by the AHJ.

**8.2.2** Vents shall be screened with a corrosion-resistant, noncombustible wire mesh with the mesh opening not to exceed nominal 6.3 mm (1/4 in.) in size.

**8.2.3** Eaves shall be boxed in with 15.8 mm (5/8 in.) nominal sheathing or noncombustible materials.

**8.7.2** Clearance: Vegetation shall not be allowed within 3.038 m (10 ft.) of a chimney outlet.

**10.1.1** The AHJ shall be responsible for the adoption and maintenance of a multi-agency operational plan for the protection of life and property during wildland fires.

**10.1.2** The primary goal of the plan shall be to protect people in the fire area, including emergency personnel responding to the incident, from injury or loss of life.

**10.1.3** A secondary objective shall be to minimize or eliminate property loss from wildland fire.

**10.2.6.2** Mutual assistance agreements shall be reviewed annually.

## **NFPA 1143 Standard for Wildland Fire Management 2003**

### **Edition**

#### Definitions:

**3.3.23 Prevention:** Activities, including public education, law enforcement, personal contact, and reduction of fuel hazards, directed at reducing the incidence of fire.

**3.3.25 Rural:** Any area wherein residences and other developments are scattered and intermingled with forest, range, or farmlands and native vegetation or cultivated crops.

**3.3.28 Values at Risk:** Public and private values that the wildland fire protection system is created and funded to protect.

#### Pertinent Standards:

**4.5.1.1** Based on the values, risk assessment, and hazard assessment, the AHJ shall develop a strategic plan identifying the required mitigation activities, responsible party, priorities, and implantation schedule.

**4.5.3.1** The AHJ shall identify activities necessary to mitigate fire behavior characteristics through fuel modification.

**5.1.1** The AHJ shall develop a written preparedness plan(s) for wildland fire control consistent with firefighter and public safety.

**6.4.1.1** Entities involved in fire suppression: The AHJ shall prepare a written coordination and cooperative agreement plan that includes entities affected by or involved in wildland fire protection and related cooperative procedures.

## **NFPA 1141 Standard for Fire Protection in Planned Building Groups 2003 Edition**

### Definitions:

**3.3.13 Fire Department:** The governmental or other organization that is responsible for providing fire protection services to an area.

**3.3.18 Fire Protection:** All measures taken to reduce the burden of fire on quality of life. Fire protection includes measures such as fire prevention, fire suppression, built-in fire protection systems, and planning and building codes.

**3.3.20 Fire Resistant:** Construction designed to offer reasonable protection against fire.

**3.3.24 Jurisdiction:** Any governmental unit or political division or subdivision including, but not limited to, township, village, borough, parish, city, county, state, commonwealth, province, freehold, district, or territory over which the governmental unit exercises power and authority.

### Pertinent Mitigation Standards:

**4.1 Plans.** As a minimum, the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) shall require anyone proposing to develop a planned building group to submit preliminary, working and as-built plans.

**4.1.1** All preliminary plans, when submitted, shall contain, as a minimum, a site plan showing proposed water supply, roadway access, fire department access, and other items pertinent to the specific project.

**4.1.2 Working Plans:** Working plans, drawn to scale and signed by a licensed architect or engineer, shall be accurate and shall illustrate the final design of items required by this standard.

**4.1.3 As-Built Plans.** Drawings showing items listed in 4.1.1, building floor plans, and fire protection systems, as-built, shall be submitted to the fire department upon completion of the project.

**5.1.2** Access to the property of the planned building group shall be provided by a minimum of two distinctly separate routes, each located as remotely from the other as possible.

**5.2.1** Roadways shall be constructed of a hard, all weather surface designed to support the heaviest piece of fire apparatus likely to be operated on the roadway.

**5.2.2** Every dead end roadway more than 91.5 m (300 feet) in length shall be provided at the closed end with a turnaround having not less than 36.5 m (120 feet) outside diameter of traveled way.

**6.2.1 Structure Separation:** Any structure of a planned building group shall be separated from another structure by at least 9.1 m (30 feet) and shall be set back at least 9.1 m (30 feet) from the property line.

**7.1.3** A wildland fire risk hazard severity assessment shall be performed for all structures and groups of structures adjacent to wildland fuels.

**7.3.1** Only roof covering assemblies rated class A or B shall be used. The specific class shall be consistent with the wildland fire risk and severity assessment as determined by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

#### **9.1.1 Water supply systems**